

Down Syndrome Protection Act (House Bill 2050 \ Senate Bill 1050)

Facts about the Down Syndrome Protection Act | [#ALifeWorthLiving](#)

House Bill 2050 sponsored by Rep. Turzai (R-Allegheny) & Rep. Judy Ward (R-Blair) and
Senate Bill 1050 by Senator Scott Martin (R-Lancaster)

- Amends Title 18 §3203 (definitions) to add a definition of Down syndrome
- “A chromosome disorder associated with an extra chromosome 21, in whole or in part, or an effective trisomy for chromosome 21.”
- Amends Title 18 §3204 to add that an abortion shall not be deemed necessary if sought exclusively because of “a prenatal diagnosis of or belief that the unborn child has Down syndrome”
- The same section already says an abortion sought solely because of the sex of the unborn child shall not be deemed necessary.

Other Key Facts

- Under current Pennsylvania law, a woman can obtain an abortion prior to 24 weeks (gestational age) for any reason, except if the only reason is to select the sex of the child. The proposed legislation would simply add Down syndrome to that provision of current law.
- This DOES NOT prohibit an abortion due to rape, incest or danger to the life of the mother
- In 2016, there were 139,356 births in PA. Approximately 1 in 700 births result in a child with Down Syndrome.
- Studies show that 67% -90% of babies are aborted after a Down Syndrome diagnosis.
- This legislation would save between 133 and 179 Down Syndrome babies in PA a year.
- Ohio, Indiana and North Dakota have taken steps to protect these children by passing laws prohibiting abortions because of a Down syndrome diagnosis. It is time for Pennsylvania to do the same.
- This is disability rights legislation. People diagnosed with a disability have a [#ALifeWorthLiving](#)
- Pennsylvania is already home to Chloe’s Law — named after high school student Chloe Kondrich, who has Down syndrome. The law provides resources and support to parents who learn that their unborn children may have Down syndrome.
- Now more than ever, babies born with Down syndrome have the opportunity to live long, happy, and productive lives – worth living.
- Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades.
- The accomplishments and successes of adults with Down syndrome such as Karen Gaffney send a clear message of hope to children also living with Down syndrome.
- Karen Gaffney has a college degree from Portland Community College and successfully swam the English Channel as part of a six-person relay team. Two years ago swam 9-miles across Lake Tahoe in 59-degree water to raise money for the National Down Syndrome Congress.
- Instead of selectively terminating pregnancies as a result of a Down syndrome diagnosis, we should be celebrating the lives of all children, including those with Down syndrome.

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