
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 533 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY SHAPIRO, PERZEL, DeWEESE, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DIVEN, DONATUCCI, EACHUS, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FICHTER, FORCIER, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KENNEY, KOTIK, LEDERER, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MCGILL, MUNDY, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, RAMALEY, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, ROHRER, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SIPTROTH, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, PARKER, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 7, 2005

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 7, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of January 2006 as "Glaucoma Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is a leading cause of preventable,
4 irreversible blindness in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Glaucoma affects more than 3 million people in the
6 United States but remains undiagnosed and untreated in nearly
7 50% of affected individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases usually
9 affecting middle-aged and elderly persons but is also a
10 congenital and juvenile condition; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Ophthalmology and Eye
12 Doctors recommends that persons at higher risk for glaucoma have

1 a complete eye examination at least every one to two years; and

2 WHEREAS, Individuals at risk for glaucoma include those with
3 a family history of the disease, African Americans and Hispanics
4 older than 40, Caucasians older than 50, anyone older than 40
5 with a history of myopia or nearsightedness and anyone who has
6 experienced severe eye injury or trauma or with a history of
7 high blood pressure or diabetes; and

8 WHEREAS, Glaucoma often goes unnoticed because there are no
9 apparent symptoms in the early stages; and

10 WHEREAS, Up to 40% of the optic nerve could be damaged before
11 a patient notices any vision loss; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no cure for glaucoma, but the disease can
13 be successfully controlled with early diagnosis and treatment,
14 including eye drops and surgery; and

15 WHEREAS, With the aging of Pennsylvania's population,
16 especially baby boomers, the number of glaucoma cases will
17 continue to rise, thus presenting social, medical and economic
18 problems; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
20 month of January 2006 as "Glaucoma Awareness Month" in
21 Pennsylvania to develop greater public awareness of the
22 importance of medical eye care.