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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 873 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY M. SMITH, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN, COHEN, DALEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS,  
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KORTZ, KULA,  
MAHONEY, MAJOR, MCILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MILLARD, MURT,  
MUSTIO, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PAYTON, PHILLIPS, RAMALEY,  
RAPP, READSHAW, ROCK, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCHRODER,  
SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, STABACK, SWANGER, VEREB, VITALI,  
VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 24, 2008, as "Parental Alienation Syndrome  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania as a means to draw attention  
3 to this growing problem that endangers the mental and  
4 emotional health of a child.

5 WHEREAS, Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) is a  
6 psychological condition most often observed in children affected  
7 by high conflict divorce and separation; and

8 WHEREAS, The most common symptom of children affected by PAS  
9 is a severe opposition to contact with one parent and overt  
10 hatred toward that parent when there is little to no logical  
11 reason to explain the child's behavior; and

12 WHEREAS, The effects of PAS can last well into adulthood and  
13 may last for a lifetime with tragic consequences; and

14 WHEREAS, A pattern of alienation on the part of a parent  
15 usually begins without any malicious or conscious intent to harm

1 the relationship between the other parent and the child; and

2 WHEREAS, Most parents are unaware of how subtle behaviors and  
3 comments can hurt the relationship between a child and a  
4 targeted parent; and

5 WHEREAS, Some alienating parents develop skills that help  
6 them manipulate their children to hurt the other parent on  
7 purpose and for vengeance; and

8 WHEREAS, Various studies show that children exposed to even  
9 mild alienation may have trouble learning, concentrating,  
10 relaxing or getting along with their peers, as well as  
11 developing physical and behavioral problems; and

12 WHEREAS, The mission of the Parental Alienation Awareness  
13 Organization is to educate the public and professionals about  
14 PAS, its effects on children and how it can be prevented by  
15 raising national and international awareness of this growing  
16 problem; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare September  
18 24, 2008, as "Parental Alienation Syndrome Awareness Day" in  
19 Pennsylvania as a means to bring further awareness of this  
20 devastating issue facing children of divorce or separation to  
21 the citizens of this Commonwealth.