

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 255 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MUSTIO, BEYER, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHART, HELM, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, KULA, MARSHALL, McCALL, MENSCH, MOUL, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SCAVELLO, STERN, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WHITE, EVERETT, MILLARD, HENNESSEY AND SIPTROTH, APRIL 23, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 23, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2009 as "'Science: It's Elementary'
2 Showcase of Student Learning Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, During the month of May 2009, school districts
4 across this Commonwealth participating in "Science: It's
5 Elementary" are hosting showcases of student learning; and

6 WHEREAS, Students showcase scientific discovery and actively
7 engage parents, teachers, community members and legislators with
8 investigations from the "Science: It's Elementary" modules that
9 highlight important science concepts sparked by hands-on,
10 inquiry-based learning; and

11 WHEREAS, Last year thousands of elementary students in
12 classrooms throughout more than 60 school districts across this
13 Commonwealth showcased the hands-on science learning as part of
14 the Statewide "Science: It's Elementary" initiative; and

15 WHEREAS, Through an investment of \$37.1 million since 2006 by

1 the Governor and General Assembly, the Department of Education
2 is partnering with ASSET (Achieving Student Success through
3 Excellence in Teaching) Inc., to provide professional
4 development for 2,700 teachers which will impact nearly 72,000
5 students in 134 school districts across 52 counties throughout
6 this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, A nationally respected educational evaluation firm
8 found that "Science: It's Elementary" changes school district
9 culture, resulting in more frequent science lessons being taught
10 in classrooms; leads to significant improvements in student
11 achievement; and, for teachers who engage in rigorous, ongoing
12 professional development, increases science content knowledge
13 and confidence in teaching science; and

14 WHEREAS, Because of the partnership between ASSET and the
15 Department of Education, elementary students are learning
16 sciences through research-based education practices, which are
17 delivered by highly dedicated and qualified educators who have
18 participated in ASSET's rigorous professional development
19 program; and

20 WHEREAS, During the 2008-2009 school year, ASSET directly
21 impacts more than 4,600 teachers and 183,000 students in
22 approximately 165 school districts, charter and private schools
23 in western Pennsylvania; and

24 WHEREAS, Since its establishment in 1994, ASSET has provided
25 school districts across this Commonwealth with quality
26 educational opportunities by bringing together governmental
27 agencies, corporations, foundations and universities in support
28 of science education reform; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 outstanding contributions of the science education reform

1 initiative "Science: It's Elementary" and declare the month of
2 May 2009 a "'Science: It's Elementary' Showcase of Student
3 Learning Month" in Pennsylvania.