

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 523 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY SOLOBAY, FARRY, WATSON, MUSTIO, BAKER, BEAR,
BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYD, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN,
D. COSTA, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FLECK,
FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA,
HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,
MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MCGEEHAN, MICOZZIE,
MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE,
PHILLIPS, QUINN, REESE, REICHLEY, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO,
SIPTROTH, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATERS
AND WHITE, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 9, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing December 2009 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is produced by furnaces, common
4 household appliances, vehicles, generators, fireplaces and other
5 systems that are powered by the burning of fuel, including
6 natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil and wood; and

7 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as "the silent killer"
8 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas
9 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

10 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental
11 poisoning deaths in this nation; and

12 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and
13 Prevention found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in

1 accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

2 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
3 determined that carbon monoxide claims approximately 50 lives
4 each year and that carbon monoxide exposure sends more than
5 20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

6 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic has determined that 51% of all
7 carbon monoxide poisoning cases reported involves children six
8 years of age and younger; and

9 WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission has
10 determined that older adults more frequently have preexisting
11 health conditions that affect the heart, lungs and circulatory
12 system and the presence of one or more of these conditions
13 lowers a victim's tolerance and increases the risk of fatal
14 carbon monoxide exposure; and

15 WHEREAS, A January 2006 article in the *Journal of the*
16 *American Medical Association* showed that, for individuals who
17 were involved in carbon monoxide poisoning and survived, there
18 was a three-fold increase in coronary artery disease seven years
19 later when compared with patients who were not poisoned; and

20 WHEREAS, The Carbon Monoxide Health and Safety Association
21 has determined that the combined medical cost of carbon monoxide
22 accidents, lost productivity and lost wages amounts to \$8.8
23 billion per year; and

24 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide
25 poisonings are critical to protecting residents of Pennsylvania
26 from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the
27 home; and

28 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined to be
29 the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide, and there is a
30 dramatic correlation between carbon monoxide alarm ordinances in

1 cities and lower death rates from carbon monoxide; therefore be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
4 December 2009 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in
5 Pennsylvania.