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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 69

Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY ORIE, VANCE, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BOSCOLA,  
BROWNE, BRUBAKER, COSTA, DINNIMAN, EARLL, ERICKSON, FARNESE,  
FERLO, FOLMER, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN,  
LEACH, LOGAN, MELLOW, MUSTO, O'PAKE, PILEGGI, PIPPY,  
RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, STACK, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON,  
VOGEL, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, WONDERLING, WOZNIAK AND YAW,  
APRIL 1, 2009

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 1, 2009

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2009 as "Child Abuse Prevention  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year more than 1 million children in the United  
4 States are documented as the victims of child abuse, and at  
5 least 1,500 children die as a result, with children under four  
6 years old accounting for 81% of the fatalities; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2007, 46 Pennsylvania children died as a result  
8 of abuse and neglect, and there were 4,162 substantiated cases  
9 of abuse; and

10 WHEREAS, Thirty-five of the 46 Pennsylvania children who died  
11 in 2007 as a result of abuse and neglect were under the age of  
12 five years and 18 of the children were under the age of one  
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, More than half of the perpetrators in 2007 were  
15 relatives or household members; and

1       WHEREAS, In 2007-2008, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
2 Rape network of 52 rape crisis centers provided services to over  
3 9,000 child victims of sexual violence and have spent over  
4 66,000 hours in counseling and medical and court-accompaniment  
5 for these victims; and

6       WHEREAS, The damaging effects of child abuse include, but are  
7 not limited to, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse and  
8 physical and psychological difficulties; and

9       WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and  
10 geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions  
11 across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

12       WHEREAS, Child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness  
13 raised so that families learn they have access to community  
14 resources which offer support, information and guidance to help  
15 stop or prevent abusive behaviors or conditions; and

16       WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social  
17 service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout  
18 this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the  
19 victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

20       WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted the Newborn Protection  
21 Act, or Safe Haven Law, in 2002; and

22       WHEREAS, In 2003 an amendment to the Constitution of  
23 Pennsylvania was approved by the electorate permitting child  
24 victims and child material witnesses with the option of  
25 testifying electronically; and

26       WHEREAS, In 2006 the General Assembly enacted a comprehensive  
27 child abuse reform package (Act 179), including updating the  
28 Child Protective Services Law and lengthening of the criminal  
29 statute of limitations for sexual offenses against children; and

30       WHEREAS, In spite of these efforts, much more still needs to

1 be done to guarantee a childhood free of abuse and victimization  
2 to every child in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2009  
4 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That the Senate commend those persons who work to  
7 treat and prevent child abuse in Pennsylvania and urge all  
8 Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the tragedy of  
9 child abuse.