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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 836 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, ROZZI, COHEN, READSHAW, ROSS, V. BROWN,  
LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, BAKER, MURT, DONATUCCI, DUSH, SONNEY,  
D. COSTA, HENNESSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MACKENZIE, REGAN,  
KINSEY, VEREB, MILLARD, TOOHL, WARD, O'NEILL, R. BROWN,  
THOMAS, PASHINSKI, J. HARRIS, HARHART, KIRKLAND, PAYNE,  
DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, BURNS, WHEELAND, NEILSON, CALTAGIRONE,  
YOUNGBLOOD, MILNE, WATSON, GOODMAN, MARSICO, A. HARRIS AND  
PHILLIPS-HILL, APRIL 29, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 29, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month May 2016 as "Huntington's Disease  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder  
4 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the  
5 brain, leading to deterioration of a person's physical and  
6 mental abilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality  
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired  
9 judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech,  
10 difficulty in swallowing and significant weight loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually appear in individuals between 30  
12 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year period;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America

1 estimates there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic Americans  
2 and more than 200,000 at risk of inheriting the disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential  
4 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's  
5 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene; and

6 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected  
7 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually  
8 making the person totally dependent upon others for his or her  
9 care; and

10 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of  
11 entire families emotionally, socially and economically; and

12 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may  
13 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional  
14 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

15 WHEREAS, Researchers identified the gene that causes  
16 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have developed treatments in  
17 hopes of ultimately finding a cure; and

18 WHEREAS, There is still a need for greater public awareness  
19 of Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, State  
20 and local levels to support affected persons as well as their  
21 families and caregivers; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
23 month of May 2016 as "Huntington's Disease Awareness Month" in  
24 Pennsylvania.