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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 422 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, DAY,  
DRISCOLL, DUSH, FREEMAN, HENNESSEY, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,  
MACKENZIE, McNEILL, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, NEILSON, READSHAW,  
ROTHMAN, ROZZI, SONNEY, TOOIL, WARD, WARREN, WATSON,  
D. COSTA AND GILLEN, JUNE 23, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 23, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of August 2017 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetically  
4 inherited disease affecting the part of the nervous system that  
5 controls voluntary muscle movement; and

6 WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death of infants  
7 and toddlers, affecting one in every 6,000 to 10,000 people in  
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier of  
10 the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Among autosomal recessive disorders, SMA is the most  
12 common fatal disease and is second in birth prevalence only to  
13 cystic fibrosis; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms in the mildest cases of SMA include muscle  
15 weakness, muscle twitching and lack of muscle tone; and

16 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder

1 interferes with one's ability to sit unsupported and causes  
2 breathing and swallowing difficulties; and

3 WHEREAS, Early detection is vital to managing symptoms and  
4 preventing SMA from progressing and interfering with one's basic  
5 life functions; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration  
7 recently approved the first treatment for children and adults  
8 with SMA; and

9 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for  
10 individuals with SMA starts with awareness; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
12 month of August 2017 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness  
13 Month" in Pennsylvania.