

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 24

Session of  
1997

INTRODUCED BY L. I. COHEN, DONATUCCI, LAUGHLIN, NAILOR, DeLUCA, LEH, HERSHEY, GEORGE, VAN HORNE, GLADECK, TIGUE, TRELLO, ARMSTRONG, ROONEY, O'BRIEN, SANTONI, TRAVAGLIO, PETTIT, COY, THOMAS, MANDERINO, READSHAW, CURRY, KENNEY, GRUPPO, COWELL, B. SMITH, GEIST, DEMPSEY, RAYMOND, ADOLPH, ROHRER, JOSEPHS, RAMOS, FARGO, HERMAN, GODSHALL, FICHTER, SCHULER, MARKOSEK, GIGLIOTTI, MICOZZIE, BEBKO-JONES, E. Z. TAYLOR, WOJNAROSKI, BAKER, SHANER, BROWNE, ITKIN, TANGRETTI, MELIO, MILLER, SCHRODER, DiGIROLAMO, SATHER, LYNCH, BOSCOLA, SCRIMENTI, CLYMER, STERN, TRUE, HENNESSEY, BELARDI, WALKO, STABACK, ALLEN, DENT, BARD, SAINATO, McGEEHAN, RUBLEY, REBER, ORIE AND HESS, JANUARY 28, 1997

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 28, 1997

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 1997 as "Autism Awareness Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An Autism State-of-the-Science Conference held by  
4 the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at the request of the  
5 Congress of the United States found that autism, a neurological  
6 disorder of communication, behavior and movement, is a pressing  
7 public health problem that merits the best efforts of public and  
8 private agencies in both research and services; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 26,140 Pennsylvanians have autism,  
10 according to the empirically substantiated estimate of the  
11 prevalence of autism spectrum disorders by the Working Group on  
12 Epidemiology of this NIH Autism State-of-the-Science Conference;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Autism, once thought to be rare, is now known to be  
3 one of the most common of the developmental disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, At present there is no biological marker, no cure  
5 and no psychopharmacological treatment for the core symptoms of  
6 this lifelong disability, although medical and behavioral  
7 interventions to improve learning and behavior are available;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The social, emotional and financial costs to  
10 individuals with autism, their families and to Federal and state  
11 agencies are staggering; and

12 WHEREAS, Awareness among all Pennsylvanians of the great  
13 urgency of this problem will help support the search for  
14 remedies; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That January 1997 be designated "Autism Awareness  
16 Month" in Pennsylvania and that the National Institutes of  
17 Health be commended and encouraged in their efforts to help  
18 solve the puzzle of autism.