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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 287 Session of  
2005

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INTRODUCED BY HERMAN, HICKERNELL, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BALDWIN,  
BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BENNINGHOFF, BIANCUCCI, BOYD,  
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON,  
CRUZ, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS,  
FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FORCIER,  
FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOOD,  
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS,  
HUTCHINSON, JAMES, KOTIK, LEACH, LEDERER, MAJOR, MARKOSEK,  
MARSICO, MCGILL, McILHATTAN, S. MILLER, MUNDY, MUSTIO,  
PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, READSHAW,  
REICHLEY, ROBERTS, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI,  
SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, SHAPIRO, B. SMITH,  
SOLOBAY, STABACK, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE,  
TRUE, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 3, 2005

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 3, 2005

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 12, 2005, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States,  
4 including 6% to 8% of the population of our country, and  
5 millions of people worldwide, have been diagnosed with  
6 fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or  
7 cure; and

8 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a chronic illness increasing at  
9 epidemic rates, which causes fatigue and debilitating pain in  
10 women, men and children of all ages and races; and

11 WHEREAS, Patients with this illness often have to learn to

1 live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme  
2 fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine  
3 headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and  
4 concentration; and

5 WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a  
6 diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently  
7 are inadequately educated on fibromyalgia diagnosis and  
8 treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, It is necessary that we recognize the medical  
10 research demonstrating biochemical abnormalities in people with  
11 fibromyalgia; and

12 WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia in children and young adults presents  
13 unique challenges for this population who suffer not only from  
14 the symptoms of this illness but also from the lack of  
15 understanding and social acceptance; and

16 WHEREAS, People with fibromyalgia face discrimination from  
17 employers, friends, family and the judicial system while dealing  
18 with the ongoing stress of living with an unpredictable disease  
19 and an uncertain future; and

20 WHEREAS, Employers could support their employees with  
21 fibromyalgia by making adaptations to the work environment so  
22 that people with fibromyalgia could continue to function at work  
23 and not be forced to file for disability; and

24 WHEREAS, The National Fibromyalgia Association and other  
25 fibromyalgia support organizations around our country have  
26 joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness and support,  
27 including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Understanding this illness will help guarantee hope  
30 for a better future for people with fibromyalgia; therefore be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
3 needs of these chronically ill people and designate May 12,  
4 2005, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and urge  
5 all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist  
6 those individuals and families who deal with this devastating  
7 disease on a daily basis.