

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 47 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, McGEEHAN, GEIST, MOUL, BAKER, BISHOP,
BOBACK, BOYD, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BROOKS, V. BROWN, BUXTON,
CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DALEY, DAY,
DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FLECK, FREEMAN,
GABLER, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HAHN, HARHART,
HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, KAVULICH, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,
LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MATZIE, MICOZZIE, MILLARD,
MIRABITO, MURPHY, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI,
PAYNE, PICKETT, QUINN, RAVENSTAHL, REESE, REICHLEY, ROCK,
ROSS, SAMUELSON, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN,
VULAKOVICH, WAGNER, WATSON, WHITE, HORNAMAN AND BENNINGHOFF,
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 1, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2011 as "Child Abuse Prevention
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Children bring happiness into our lives and hope to
4 our future; and

5 WHEREAS, Children are our greatest joy and our most important
6 responsibility; and

7 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility as parents, friends,
8 neighbors, citizens and lawmakers to nurture and protect
9 children, providing an atmosphere of love and respect in which
10 they are able to grow into healthy, well-adjusted and productive
11 adults; and

12 WHEREAS, We, as a legislative body, have an ongoing

1 commitment to protect the rights and needs of children; and

2 WHEREAS, In December 1999 the Senate directed the Joint State
3 Government Commission to study child abuse within this
4 Commonwealth and make recommendations to the General Assembly;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has defined child abuse as any
7 "recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes
8 nonaccidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years
9 of age" or an "act or failure to act by a perpetrator which
10 causes nonaccidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or
11 sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age" and has
12 made it illegal to engage in such activity; and

13 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and
14 geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions
15 across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, There were 23,181 cases of possible child abuse or
17 maltreatment referred for investigation in this Commonwealth in
18 2006; and

19 WHEREAS, There were 4,152 substantiated cases of child abuse
20 and neglect in this Commonwealth in 2006; and

21 WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social
22 service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout
23 this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the
24 victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

25 WHEREAS, In spite of the dedication and sacrifice of these
26 individuals, much more still needs to be done to guarantee a
27 childhood free of abuse and victimization to every child in this
28 Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, As our knowledge about the prevention and treatment
30 of child abuse grows, we must provide support, information and

1 guidance to families in which child abuse may happen; therefore
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
4 month of April 2011 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to do
7 its part in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for
8 all children in this Commonwealth so that they might grow up to
9 be healthy and productive citizens; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the many
11 individuals and community groups and organizations who work
12 daily to treat and prevent child abuse in this Commonwealth and
13 urge all Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the
14 tragedy of child abuse.