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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 430 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, BAKER, BREWSTER, SABATINA, ARGALL,  
McGARRIGLE, HUTCHINSON, KITCHEN, SCAVELLO, DINNIMAN, SCHWANK,  
FONTANA, BROWNE, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, YUDICHAK, COSTA,  
VULAKOVICH, WHITE, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, FARNESE, AUMENT,  
RESCHENTHALER, KILLION AND SCARNATI, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2016 as "National Spinal Cord  
2 Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Twelve thousand spine-related injuries occur in the  
4 United States each year; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 300,000 Americans, including 40,000  
6 veterans, have spine-related injuries; and

7 WHEREAS, Spinal cord injuries often result in paralysis of  
8 either the lower body, paraplegia, or the upper and lower body,  
9 quadriplegia, and often can cause respiratory illness, sleep  
10 apnea, a form of high blood pressure known as autonomic  
11 dysreflexia, inability to regulate body temperature, chronic  
12 pain and impaired use of bladder, bowel and reproductive organs;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Spinal cord injury may also increase a person's risk  
15 for osteoporosis, obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes,  
16 therefore making physical activity especially important to the

1 physical and emotional well-being of persons with spinal cord  
2 injuries; and

3 WHEREAS, Every 48 minutes another person in the United States  
4 becomes paralyzed from a spinal cord injury; and

5 WHEREAS, The Senate affirms the necessity of addressing  
6 spinal cord-related injuries, including the particular  
7 challenges of spinal cord injury care and recovery for persons  
8 with new or existing injuries and their loved ones and  
9 caregivers; and

10 WHEREAS, The Senate further notes the significance of  
11 ensuring access to related resources and benefits, advancing  
12 medical research and disseminating public education and  
13 outreach; and

14 WHEREAS, "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" offers  
15 an opportunity for individuals to learn about spinal cord  
16 injuries, recognize the daily challenges encountered by injured  
17 persons and acknowledge the achievements of Americans living  
18 with spinal cord injury; and

19 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs, a leading  
20 advocate of "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month,"  
21 offers inpatient, outpatient, home care and respite care  
22 services as well as specialty health care programs for persons  
23 living with a spinal cord injury and facilitates the progress of  
24 related research through its network of specialized care centers  
25 and primary care teams; and

26 WHEREAS, The Buoniconti Fund, in furtherance of its work  
27 addressing spinal cord injury awareness and its national and  
28 international objectives related to curing paralysis, is urging  
29 all persons in our communities to support its largest campaign;  
30 therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of September  
2   2016 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" in  
3   Pennsylvania.