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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 627 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, JAMES, MILLARD, NEILSON, PASHINSKI,  
PEIFER, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, SAYLOR, WATSON AND  
ZIMMERMAN, DECEMBER 6, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
DECEMBER 6, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory at East  
2 Stroudsburg University for being a leader in tick testing and  
3 prevention of Lyme disease and tick-borne illness.

4 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted  
5 primarily by ticks and is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia*  
6 *burgdorferi*; and

7 WHEREAS, There are three main species of ticks in  
8 Pennsylvania, which are the blacklegged tick, American dog tick  
9 and lone star tick; and

10 WHEREAS, However, the only species that transmits the  
11 bacteria which causes Lyme disease is the blacklegged tick, also  
12 referred to as a deer tick; and

13 WHEREAS, In the last six years, Pennsylvania ranked highest  
14 in the country in the number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Lyme disease poses a serious threat to the quality  
17 of life of many Pennsylvanians; and

1       WHEREAS, In 2016, Pennsylvania reported 12,200 confirmed  
2 cases of Lyme disease, but the Centers for Disease Control and  
3 Prevention estimates that the number of confirmed cases of Lyme  
4 disease only depicts a portion of the total number of cases; and

5       WHEREAS, Moreover, the Centers for Disease Control and  
6 Prevention estimates that the actual cases of Lyme disease can  
7 be up to 10 times greater than the reported cases, indicating  
8 that Pennsylvania could have up to 122,000 cases per year; and

9       WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory at East  
10 Stroudsburg University is an extension of the Biological  
11 Sciences Department at East Stroudsburg University; and

12       WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory was founded in  
13 2005 by distinguished Professor of Biology Jane Huffman, Ph.D.,  
14 and has since been established as one of the leading tick  
15 testing laboratories in the United States and the only tick  
16 testing laboratory in Pennsylvania that provides tick-borne  
17 pathogen identification to the public; and

18       WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory currently  
19 tests thousands of ticks each year and utilizes the data for  
20 surveillance of tick species and infection rates in  
21 Pennsylvania; and

22       WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory is one of two  
23 major tick testing facilities in the United States that provides  
24 comprehensive research data on tick-borne pathogens across the  
25 country; and

26       WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory also developed  
27 Lyme-Aid, a tick testing kit for people and pets, which is the  
28 first commercialized faculty-student research project in the  
29 124-year history of East Stroudsburg University; and

30       WHEREAS, On July 20, 2017, Lyme-Aid was rebranded and

1 launched as the Cutter Lyme Disease Tick Test, which is the  
2 first nationally recognized brand-name product developed at East  
3 Stroudsburg University; and

4 WHEREAS, The Cutter Lyme Disease Tick Test provides fast,  
5 99.9% accurate DNA test results for determining if a tick  
6 carries the bacteria that causes Lyme disease; and

7 WHEREAS, The Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory continues to  
8 work in collaboration with various research institutions and  
9 universities in Pennsylvania and has served as a liaison on  
10 various Lyme and tick-borne pathogen task forces and educational  
11 teams in Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, Early detection of Lyme disease is critical for a  
13 good recovery and it is vital to make the detection of Lyme  
14 disease easier and faster for people; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
16 Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory at East Stroudsburg University  
17 for being a leader in tick testing and prevention of Lyme  
18 disease and tick-borne illness.