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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 348 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN,  
BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, SABATINA, BLAKE, BROWNE,  
SCAVELLO, RESCHENTHALER, KILLION, AUMENT, FOLMER, WHITE,  
VOGEL, SCHWANK AND VULAKOVICH, APRIL 25, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 25, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Crohn's Disease and  
2 Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic  
4 diseases that cause inflammation of the digestive and  
5 gastrointestinal tract; and

6 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are the two  
7 main disease categories that belong to a larger group of  
8 illnesses called inflammatory bowel disease, also known as IBD;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1932, Dr. Burrill Crohn and two colleagues  
11 published a landmark paper describing the features of what is  
12 known today as Crohn's disease; and

13 WHEREAS, The exact causes of Crohn's disease and ulcerative  
14 colitis are unknown, but experts believe there may be several  
15 factors that work together to lead to the development of the  
16 diseases, including such factors as genetics, impaired immune  
17 system response and environmental triggers; and

1       WHEREAS, More than 1.6 million Americans suffer from Crohn's  
2 disease and ulcerative colitis; and

3       WHEREAS, Ten percent of persons affected by Crohn's disease  
4 and ulcerative colitis are children under 18 years of age; and

5       WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect people  
6 of all ages, but they are primarily diseases of adolescents and  
7 young adults, affecting mainly persons between 15 and 35 years  
8 of age; and

9       WHEREAS, The diseases affect males and females equally; and

10       WHEREAS, Symptoms of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis  
11 include abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, loss of appetite and  
12 rectal bleeding; and

13       WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Crohn's disease and  
14 ulcerative colitis, only medication to suppress inflammation;  
15 and

16       WHEREAS, Approximately 23% to 45% of people with ulcerative  
17 colitis and up to 75% of people with Crohn's disease will  
18 eventually require surgery; and

19       WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, also  
20 known as the CCFA, works diligently to research the diseases,  
21 provide information and aid to patients and increase national  
22 awareness of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis; and

23       WHEREAS, The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and  
24 Kidney Diseases also conducts and supports research into many  
25 kinds of digestive disorders, including Crohn's disease; and

26       WHEREAS, "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness  
27 Month" increases public awareness of Crohn's disease and  
28 ulcerative colitis patients' circumstances, acknowledges the  
29 impact of the diseases on patients and families and recognizes  
30 research for treatment and a cure for Crohn's disease and

1 ulcerative colitis; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2017 as  
3 "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in  
4 Pennsylvania and urge all Pennsylvanians to learn about these  
5 diseases.