A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of October 2018 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation, sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 360,000 deaths each year; and

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition in which the heart unexpectedly ceases to function due to ventricular fibrillation, an irregular and rapid quivering of the heart's lower pumping chambers; and

WHEREAS, When this occurs, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs, causing loss of consciousness or seizure-like activity in seconds; and

WHEREAS, Anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest, including infants, high school athletes and individuals 30 years...
of age or older who have no sign of heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute giving the disease a mortality rate of approximately 95%; and

WHEREAS, The normal rhythm of the heart can only be restored with defibrillation, an electrical shock that is safely delivered to the chest by an automated external defibrillator (AED); and

WHEREAS, If not treated within minutes, sudden cardiac arrest results in death; and

WHEREAS, For every minute that passes without defibrillation, the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10%; and

WHEREAS, Lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are effective if administered in time; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Heart Association, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an AED more than double the chances that a victim will survive; and

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is frequently the outcome of an underlying heart condition and is often secondary to other conditions such as impact to the chest, heat stroke, asthma, drowning, electrocution and allergic reaction or adverse reaction to medication; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and to improve quality of life; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of October 2018 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and prompt treatment of
sudden cardiac arrest.