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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 303      Session of  
2006

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INTRODUCED BY WOZNIAK, FERLO, KASUNIC, BOSCOLA, FONTANA, COSTA,  
STOUT, EARLL, ERICKSON, D. WHITE, PIPPY, ORIE, TARTAGLIONE,  
CONTI, O'PAKE, C. WILLIAMS, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, WENGER,  
BRIGHTBILL AND ARMSTRONG, JUNE 19, 2006

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 19, 2006

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 7 through 13, 2006, as "Charcot-  
2 Marie-Tooth Association Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) is the most common  
4 inherited neurological disorder, affecting approximately 150,000  
5 persons in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Also known as hereditary motor and sensory  
7 neuropathy or peroneal muscular atrophy, CMT comprises a group  
8 of disorders caused by mutations in genes that affect the normal  
9 function of the peripheral nerves, which nerves lie outside the  
10 brain and spinal cord and supply the muscles and sensory organs  
11 in the limbs; and

12 WHEREAS, A typical feature includes weakness of the foot and  
13 lower leg muscles, which may result in foot drop and a high-  
14 stepped gait with frequent tripping or falls. Foot deformities,  
15 such as high arches and hammertoes are also characteristic due  
16 to weakness of the small muscles in the feet. In addition, the  
17 lower legs may take on an "inverted champagne bottle" appearance

1 due to the loss of muscle bulk. Later in the disease, weakness  
2 and muscle atrophy may occur in the hands, resulting in  
3 difficulty with fine motor skills; and

4 WHEREAS, The Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA) in  
5 Chester, Pennsylvania, has educated and served this Commonwealth  
6 for more than 20 years; and

7 WHEREAS, While there is no cure for CMT, physical therapy  
8 improves the muscle strength and endurance of persons with CMT;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association awareness and  
11 outreach campaign in Pennsylvania can be used as a national  
12 model; and

13 WHEREAS, CMTA is leading the charge for educational programs  
14 dedicated to training doctors at medical colleges in this  
15 Commonwealth to identify and treat CMT symptoms; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of May 7 through  
17 13, 2006, as "Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association Awareness Week" in  
18 Pennsylvania.