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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 177 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY MILNE, ARGALL, BAKER, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF,  
BEYER, BIANCUCCI, BISHOP, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,  
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McILVAINE SMITH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STERN, THOMAS,  
TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WHEATLEY, WILLIAMS,  
WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND SIPTROTH, APRIL 2, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 2, 2007

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2007 as "Literacy Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Literacy is defined as the ability to understand the  
4 complex systems at work in a culture for the benefit of both  
5 personal and societal development; and

6 WHEREAS, In our society, literacy now extends beyond the  
7 skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening to encompass  
8 broader proficiencies, including visual, media, financial and  
9 information literacy; and

10 WHEREAS, Great strides in literacy have transpired; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly 4 billion people worldwide are literate, but

1 this number indicates a need for continued improvement and  
2 awareness; and

3 WHEREAS, Education must be utilized as a tool by which to  
4 begin the quest for literacy at a young age; and

5 WHEREAS, The pursuit of literacy empowers parents in their  
6 role as a child's first teacher and charges them with preparing  
7 children to enter a formal educational environment to improve  
8 upon previously acquired skills; and

9 WHEREAS, Educators play a pivotal role in developing and  
10 enhancing literacy skills which aid in human social development;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Striving for literacy does not end with childhood  
13 and affects all aspects of life, including health and welfare,  
14 career and the work force, life skills and the basic ability to  
15 understand and process daily events and situations; and

16 WHEREAS, Literacy has a direct correlation to health, as  
17 persons who are not literate--persons who cannot read or write  
18 at a proficient level--tend to have poor health and high medical  
19 costs; and

20 WHEREAS, Literacy directly affects a person's ability to  
21 function in the work force, and a literate work force capable of  
22 using the current technology is essential to the national, State  
23 and local economy; and

24 WHEREAS, Problems associated with illiteracy can be prevented  
25 through education which prepares and molds students to be  
26 literate citizens who can contribute to the community; and

27 WHEREAS, The essential function of literacy is to make it  
28 possible for individuals to engage as fully as possible, with  
29 knowledge and cultural awareness, in society and to be a  
30 catalyst for change and improvement of society; and

1       WHEREAS, Literacy should be valued as a human right that  
2 allows people to exercise the privileges and responsibilities of  
3 citizenship; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
5 month of May 2007 as "Literacy Month" in Pennsylvania.