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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 207      Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY D. O'BRIEN, BAKER, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, COX, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DENLINGER, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, EACHUS, J. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HELM, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, KENNEY, KOTIK, KULA, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, MOUL, MOYER, MURT, MUSTIO, NAILOR, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, QUIGLEY, RAPP, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SEIP, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, STERN, SURRA, R. TAYLOR, THOMAS, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, APRIL 13, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 13, 2007

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2007 as "National Mental  
2 Retardation Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is a particular state of  
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a  
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is characterized by limitations  
7 in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is not mental illness; and

9 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational  
10 interventions that can cure mental retardation, although each  
11 service can and does dramatically improve skills and adaptive  
12 functioning; and

13 WHEREAS, People with mental retardation deserve and require

1   lifelong supports and services; and

2       WHEREAS, The term "mental retardation" is commonly referred  
3   to as "intellectual disability" by many advocates, self-  
4   advocates and professionals; and

5       WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead  
6   decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,  
7   including mental retardation and other developmental  
8   disabilities, to receive community-based services as an  
9   alternative to institutional care; and

10      WHEREAS, Almost 46,000 Pennsylvanians received mental  
11   retardation services and supports this past year; and

12      WHEREAS, More than 50,000 children, including significant  
13   numbers of children who have mental retardation, received early  
14   intervention services, and an additional 22,000 persons with  
15   mental retardation continue to wait for services; and

16      WHEREAS, These services and supports ensure that all citizens  
17   of Pennsylvania who have mental retardation have the opportunity  
18   to participate in the range of life experiences we all enjoy in  
19   our homes and communities: inclusion in schools, neighborhoods,  
20   businesses and places of worship; and

21      WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the  
22   community's understanding of mental retardation and the services  
23   and supports needed to meet the specific needs and abilities of  
24   people with mental retardation; and

25      WHEREAS, The month of March has been designated as "National  
26   Mental Retardation Awareness Month"; therefore be it

27      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the  
28   important role of public awareness and education in improving  
29   the lives of persons with mental retardation and recognize the  
30   month of March 2007 as "National Mental Retardation Awareness

1 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express  
3 appreciation to all those Pennsylvanians who conducted special  
4 outreach, education and services during the month of March and  
5 hereby urge the citizens of this Commonwealth to give year-round  
6 support to efforts which enable people with mental retardation  
7 to live full and productive lives of inclusion in our  
8 communities.