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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 654 Session of 2008

INTRODUCED BY HICKERNELL, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BAKER, BEAR, BENNINGTON, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHART, HARPER, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KENNEY, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MACKERETH, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MOYER, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, NAILOR, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, THOMAS, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND D. O'BRIEN, MARCH 24, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 24, 2008

A RESOLUTION

Designating May 12, 2008, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 million people in the United States, including 6% to 8% of the population of our country, and millions of people worldwide, have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a disease for which there is no known cause or cure; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia is a chronic illness increasing at epidemic rates, which causes fatigue and debilitating pain in women, men and children of all ages and races; and

WHEREAS, Patients with this illness often have to learn to

live with widespread pain throughout their bodies, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, migraine headaches, numbness and tingling, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, It often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and medical professionals frequently are inadequately educated on fibromyalgia diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that we recognize the medical research demonstrating biochemical abnormalities in people with fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, Fibromyalgia in children and young adults presents unique challenges for this population, who suffer not only from the symptoms of this illness but also from the lack of understanding and social acceptance; and

WHEREAS, People with fibromyalgia face discrimination from employers, friends, family and the judicial system while dealing with the ongoing stress of living with an unpredictable disease and an uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, Employers could support their employees with fibromyalgia by making adaptations to the work environment so that people with fibromyalgia could continue to function at work and not be forced to file for disability; and

WHEREAS, The National Fibromyalgia Association and other fibromyalgia support organizations around our country have joined together to promote fibromyalgia awareness and support, including improved education, diagnosis, research and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Understanding this illness will help guarantee hope for a better future for people with fibromyalgia; therefore be

it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the needs of these chronically ill people and designate May 12, 2008, as "Fibromyalgia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and urge all of our citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disease on a daily basis.