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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 664 Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY BELFANTI, DIGIROLAMO, GERGELY, MCCALL, BRENNAN,  
FAIRCHILD, GEORGE, GEIST, BEYER, BOYLE, LONGIETTI, BISHOP,  
BRIGGS, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, CREIGHTON,  
DeWEESE, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN,  
GRUCELA, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,  
MANN, MARKOSEK, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MURPHY, MURT,  
M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PRESTON, QUINN, READSHAW,  
REICHLEY, ROCK, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SIPTROTH,  
SOLOBAY AND THOMAS, MARCH 9, 2010

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH  
9, 2010

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of March 8 through 14, 2010, as "Workforce  
2 Solutions Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Our nation is experiencing unprecedented  
4 unemployment rates and a national economic recession that  
5 directly affect our ability to compete in a global job market;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's unemployment rate has averaged 7.9%  
8 over the past 12 months and ranges as high as 12.8% for those  
9 with lower levels of education; and

10 WHEREAS, More than half of Pennsylvania's work force lacks  
11 postsecondary education and most of these workers lack the  
12 skills needed in industries critical to Pennsylvania's economy;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The employment of future workers and the re-

1 employment of displaced workers is dependent upon education and  
2 training programs that provide workers with the skills needed in  
3 critical industries; and

4 WHEREAS, High school and college career and occupational  
5 education are powerfully enhanced when high-performing  
6 businesses in key industries provide input on curricula and  
7 offer complementary internship, co-op, apprenticeship and other  
8 work-based learning opportunities in occupations with family-  
9 sustaining careers; and

10 WHEREAS, Innovation and the spread of good management  
11 practices are accelerated when Pennsylvania businesses work  
12 together to identify and meet common training and skill needs;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The ability of workers to succeed in today's  
15 knowledge-based, global economy is enhanced when employers  
16 invest in workers' skills and when businesses develop skill  
17 certifications recognized industrywide and for which college  
18 credit may be granted; and

19 WHEREAS, The ability of low-income workers to have a real  
20 chance at pathways out of poverty requires trainers and other  
21 work force service providers to have firsthand knowledge of  
22 employers' skill needs and how workers can be supported to meet  
23 those standards; and

24 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is proactively addressing critical  
25 skills issues in key industry sectors through its Industry  
26 Partnership Strategy, which brings employers together to  
27 identify and address common training needs, assists educators  
28 and trainers in aligning curricula and services with employer  
29 needs and by offering work-based learning opportunities, sparks  
30 innovative efforts to address organizational, management and

1 human resource challenges and develops new certifications and  
2 industrywide career ladders; and

3 WHEREAS, Private foundations and United Ways across  
4 Pennsylvania have joined forces with the Commonwealth through  
5 funding collaboratives such as the Pennsylvania Fund for  
6 Workforce Solutions and the Job Opportunity Investment Network,  
7 with matching funds from the National Fund for Workforce  
8 Solutions, which provides additional funding for industry  
9 partnerships, ensuring that lower-skilled workers have the  
10 training and support they need to enter and succeed in the work  
11 force; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's community colleges, community-based  
13 organizations and employers are participating in national  
14 initiatives such as "Breaking Through" and "Connecting Literacy  
15 and Work," which help low-literacy adults gain the education and  
16 training they need to succeed in the work force; and

17 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is a site of the nationally  
18 renowned "Jobs to Careers" project, which is helping frontline  
19 health care workers gain the skills and credential opportunities  
20 they need to advance their careers, while simultaneously helping  
21 employers retain a talented work force; and

22 WHEREAS, From March 8 through 14, 2010, "Workforce Solutions  
23 Week" will be a nationwide celebration bringing together  
24 workers, employers, public officials and leaders from business  
25 and education to honor and highlight innovative approaches in  
26 building the nation's frontline work force; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
28 week of March 8 through 14, 2010, as "Workforce Solutions Week"  
29 in Pennsylvania.