

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 727 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, O'NEILL, TALLMAN, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOBACK, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CIVERA, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DELOZIER, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FLECK, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARHAI, HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MIRABITO, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PYLE, QUIGLEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROHRER, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 8, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 8, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 15 through June 15, 2010, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated three in every 1,000 children six to 17
4 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition which has no cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is a lifelong developmental
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are affected by
12 tics which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or

1 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

2 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face periodic
3 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these
4 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have
6 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and
7 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention
8 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,
9 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,
10 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are frequently
12 misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and
13 even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing
14 symptoms which at times seem controllable; and

15 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome has historically been
16 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional
17 disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

18 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often teased
19 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

20 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette Syndrome are often
21 disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators
22 who fail to understand the child's inability to control his or
23 her tics and that the child may be delayed in his or her
24 maturity and emotional responses; and

25 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face
26 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
27 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
28 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

29 WHEREAS, Schools are required to make accommodations to
30 support their students with Tourette Syndrome to be successful

1 in their education program, but many schools often focus only on
2 the behavioral or emotional component of the disorder and fail
3 to notice learning disabilities, sensory integration needs,
4 handwriting issues and organizational issues as being related to
5 Tourette Syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very
7 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
8 given the proper support; and

9 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
10 Disabilities Act to disregard disability in hiring or promotions
11 and to make accommodations to support their employees with
12 Tourette Syndrome so the employees can be successful in the
13 workplace and not be forced to file for disability; and

14 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, but many
15 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these
16 accommodations for individuals with Tourette Syndrome; and

17 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
18 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
19 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this
20 Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, Understanding this illness will help guarantee hope
22 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
23 Syndrome; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 15
25 through June 15, 2010, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania and urge all citizens to support the need for
27 awareness and education regarding Tourette Syndrome in order to
28 assist those individuals and families who deal with this
29 neurobiological syndrome every day of their lives.