

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 749 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYLE, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CUTLER, DePASQUALE, DERMODY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARKINS, HARRIS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HOUGHTON, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MATZIE, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MUNDY, MURPHY, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SIPTROTH, M. SMITH, STABACK, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, WAGNER, WATSON AND CONKLIN, APRIL 19, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 19, 2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2010, as "National  
2 Library Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The American Library Association (ALA) annually  
4 designates a week in April as a national observance to celebrate  
5 the contributions of this nation's libraries, librarians and  
6 library workers to their communities and to promote library use  
7 and support; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, participants include all types of  
9 libraries across the country, including school, public, academic  
10 and special libraries; and

11 WHEREAS, This year's theme is "Communities thrive @ your

1 library," as citizens of all ages are being encouraged to better  
2 understand how their local library helps their community to  
3 thrive by visiting their local library; and

4 WHEREAS, America's libraries are vital institutions and  
5 dynamic centers of lifelong learning that play a unique role in  
6 ensuring the public's right to know and empowering people from  
7 all walks of life to make informed decisions about the world  
8 around them; and

9 WHEREAS, Libraries play an integral role as community,  
10 educational and cultural centers that bring together diverse  
11 populations and serve as important cornerstones in healthy  
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Libraries have the most recent ideas and information  
14 available on subjects and are a cost-effective means of  
15 providing education, training and the opportunity for self-  
16 improvement to all individuals without regard to age, race,  
17 income or socioeconomic background; and

18 WHEREAS, As vital connections to the people, places and ideas  
19 of the world through books, magazines, videos and the Internet,  
20 libraries are the primary point of online access for people  
21 without computers at home, school or work; and

22 WHEREAS, Nearly 73% of libraries are their communities' only  
23 source of free computer and Internet access, which rises to 82%  
24 in rural areas; and

25 WHEREAS, Nationally, the average cost to the taxpayer for  
26 access to this wide range of public library resources is \$31 a  
27 year, about the cost of one hardcover book, which makes public  
28 libraries a bargain; and

29 WHEREAS, Libraries help communities thrive in challenging  
30 economic times and Americans are visiting their local public

1 libraries more often and checking out items with greater  
2 frequency in communities large and small; and  
3 WHEREAS, As more and more Americans look for employment,  
4 libraries are helping to level the playing field for job  
5 seekers, as many library patrons are turning to library  
6 computers and Internet access to find work, apply for jobs  
7 online, type resumes and cover letters and open e-mail accounts;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, During times of economic downturn, libraries see  
10 more users because people cut back on entertainment, given that  
11 libraries afford them the opportunity to rent films for free and  
12 check out compact disks, use databases and download audio books;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, It has been documented that library usage increases  
15 in the wake of a recession, however, at the same time, tight  
16 State and city budgets are closing library doors and reducing  
17 access when it is needed most; and

18 WHEREAS, Libraries provide indispensable educational  
19 resources for children and teenagers, plenty of free activities,  
20 as well as safe, enriching entertainment for the whole family;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Librarians and library workers play key roles in  
23 helping people explore, imagine and discover new horizons in the  
24 vast world of information, knowledge and entertainment; and

25 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of adult Americans visit their local  
26 public libraries annually, with more than a billion visits made  
27 each year by adults, and likewise by students to their school  
28 libraries; and

29 WHEREAS, America's libraries play a key role in the national  
30 discourse on intellectual freedom, equity of access and

1 narrowing the digital divide and are the cornerstone of our  
2 democracy; and

3 WHEREAS, Thousands of libraries and library supporters across  
4 the nation are celebrating "National Library Week" this year;  
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
7 week of April 11 through 17, 2010, as "National Library Week" in  
8 Pennsylvania, and encourage all citizens of this Commonwealth to  
9 visit their local library and explore the wide variety of  
10 cultural and educational riches that libraries hold; and be it  
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the National Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago,  
14 IL 60611.