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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 479 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, BISHOP, COHEN, V. BROWN,  
DIGIROLAMO, ROZZI, KINSEY, WARD, MILLARD, HENNESSEY, VEREB,  
SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, KILLION, LONGIETTI, DRISCOLL, MURT,  
CALTAGIRONE, KIRKLAND, McNEILL, O'BRIEN, D. COSTA, WATSON,  
BOYLE, EVERETT, THOMAS, MARSICO, BIZZARRO, PAYNE, SCHWEYER,  
NEILSON, MAHONEY, MAJOR, GINGRICH AND ROSS,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2015 as "Newborn Screening  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every  
4 baby born prior to hospital discharge for certain harmful or  
5 potentially fatal conditions that are not otherwise apparent at  
6 birth; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns  
8 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant  
9 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

10 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that  
11 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and  
12 evaluation; and

13 WHEREAS, Every year more than 4 million newborns in the  
14 United States and more than 140,000 newborns in this  
15 Commonwealth undergo newborn screening; and

1 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers  
2 for Disease Control and Prevention's publication entitled, "Ten  
3 Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century"; and

4 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States  
5 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the  
7 Newborn Child Testing Act in 1965 which required physicians,  
8 hospitals and other institutions to administer or cause to be  
9 administered tests for PKU and other metabolic diseases upon  
10 infants in certain cases; and

11 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the act has been  
12 amended three times, most recently with Act 148 of 2014, which  
13 expanded the list of required diseases for testing from 6 to 12;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania  
16 provides newborn hearing screening, pulse oximetry testing for  
17 critical congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and  
18 services for other diseases; and

19 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-up  
20 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of  
21 Health; and

22 WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the  
23 Commonwealth's newborn screening program; and

24 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in  
25 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with  
26 several partner organizations to shine a national spotlight on  
27 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 month of September 2015 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month"  
30 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the  
2 importance of awareness and encourage parents and future parents  
3 to educate themselves on newborn screening and take the  
4 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.