

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 640 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, COHEN, BAKER, TOOHL, BIZZARRO, MURT,  
THOMAS, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, CONKLIN, P. DALEY, ROZZI,  
ELLIS, DIGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG, KIRKLAND, DUSH, SONNEY,  
KILLION, KOTIK, J. HARRIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, HENNESSEY, KINSEY,  
BOBACK, DRISCOLL, DONATUCCI, KIM, HARHART, McCARTER,  
D. COSTA, NEILSON, MILLARD, GIBBONS, WARD, READSHAW,  
YOUNGBLOOD, SAYLOR, BULLOCK, WHEELAND, WATSON, PAYNE AND  
ROSS, JANUARY 21, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 21, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2016 as "National Children's  
2 Dental Health Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each February, advocacy groups, including the  
4 American Dental Association, celebrate "National Children's  
5 Dental Health Month" to promote the benefits of good oral health  
6 to children and their caregivers; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
8 Prevention (CDC), tooth decay, although preventable, is one of  
9 the most common chronic diseases among children; and

10 WHEREAS, Data from the CDC's 2011-2012 National Health and  
11 Nutrition Examination Survey revealed that 23% of children two  
12 to five years of age and 56% of children six to eight years of  
13 age had dental caries or cavities, more commonly known as tooth  
14 decay; and

1 WHEREAS, The survey also revealed that 10% of children two to  
2 five years of age and 20% of children six to eight years of age  
3 had untreated dental caries; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial  
5 Research found that children living at or below 100% of the  
6 Federal poverty level had a significantly higher incidence of  
7 dental caries compared to children living above the poverty  
8 level; and

9 WHEREAS, The CDC estimates that 20% of children 5 to 11 years  
10 of age and 13% of adolescents 12 to 19 years of age have at  
11 least one untreated decayed tooth; and

12 WHEREAS, Untreated tooth decay can cause pain and infections  
13 that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and  
14 learning; and

15 WHEREAS, Good oral hygiene practices, including, but not  
16 limited to, brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste,  
17 eating nutritious and balanced meals and regularly visiting and  
18 consulting with the dentist, can help prevent tooth decay; and

19 WHEREAS, Encouraging the development of good habits at an  
20 early age helps children defeat tooth decay and begin a lifetime  
21 of healthy oral care; and

22 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest of this Commonwealth to  
23 encourage good oral health among all children; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
25 month of February 2016 as "National Children's Dental Health  
26 Month" in Pennsylvania to bring public awareness to the  
27 importance of good oral health; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives strongly support  
29 the efforts of all institutions and agencies, both public and  
30 private, entrusted with promoting the health of the residents of

1 this Commonwealth in observing the month of February 2016 with  
2 appropriate education activities and programs designed to  
3 recognize "National Children's Dental Health Month."