

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 216 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, AUMENT, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, KITCHEN,  
FONTANA, ARGALL, TEPLITZ, DINNIMAN, COSTA, TARTAGLIONE,  
SCAVELLO, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH, BAKER, MENSCH, FARNESE,  
BROWNE, HUGHES AND HAYWOOD, OCTOBER 19, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 19, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 22, 2015, as "Lights on Afterschool Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 28 million children in the United States  
4 have parents who work outside the home and over 15 million  
5 children are left unsupervised after the school bell rings; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 1.3 million children who are 6 to 17 years of  
7 age in Pennsylvania have both parents in the work force or, in  
8 single parent families, the sole parent in the work force; and

9 WHEREAS, Eighteen percent of the Commonwealth's school-age  
10 children, responsible for taking care of themselves outside  
11 school, spend an average of 8.99 hours per week unsupervised  
12 after school; and

13 WHEREAS, Out-of-school hours represent the single biggest  
14 block of time for children and youth and a key time during the  
15 development of children into adolescents and adolescents into  
16 adults; and

17 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs provide safe, challenging,

1 engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth  
2 develop academic, cultural, emotional, physical and social  
3 skills; and

4 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs support working families by  
5 ensuring that their children are safe and productive during out-  
6 of-school hours; and

7 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs offer a fun and supportive  
8 educational environment for Science, Technology, Engineering and  
9 Mathematics (STEM) that help foster this Commonwealth's economic  
10 competitiveness; and

11 WHEREAS, A recent national survey reported that 52% of  
12 parents cite cost as a barrier to enrolling their children in  
13 afterschool programs; and

14 WHEREAS, Research illustrates that high-quality programming  
15 improves student achievement, reduces crime by and against  
16 children and youth and promotes positive social development; and

17 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs build stronger communities by  
18 involving parents, business leaders and student and adult  
19 volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting  
20 positive relationships among children, youth, families and  
21 adults; and

22 WHEREAS, 811,954 children in Pennsylvania would participate  
23 in an afterschool program if one were available to them; and

24 WHEREAS, "Lights on Afterschool," in its 16th year of  
25 national celebration of afterschool programs, promotes the  
26 critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives  
27 of children, their families and their communities; therefore be  
28 it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 22, 2015, as  
30 "Lights on Afterschool Day" in Pennsylvania.