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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 307 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MOUL, CHARLTON, MACKENZIE, PICKETT, BAKER,  
QUIGLEY, READSHAW, FREEMAN, BURNS, KINSEY, WARD, DEAN,  
BIZZARRO, TOOHIL, DIGIROLAMO, STAATS, DUSH, SONNEY, BOBACK,  
R. BROWN, RYAN, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, MURT, CALTAGIRONE,  
WATSON, MILLARD, O'NEILL, NEILSON, GROVE, STURLA, GOODMAN,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, EVERETT, MILNE, MARSICO AND WHEELAND,  
MAY 2, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 2, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2017, as "Tourette Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 out of every 1,000 children 6 through  
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are  
5 diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic  
6 condition that 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  
13 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face periodic  
15 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these

1 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are frequently  
9 misunderstood by their families, educators and communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Treatment by medical professionals is challenging as  
11 symptoms change frequently, preventing an understanding of this  
12 complex syndrome; and

13 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome has historically been  
14 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional  
15 disturbance instead of a condition of chemical biology; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often teased  
17 and not accepted by their peers and by the general public; and

18 WHEREAS, Educators may discipline children with Tourette  
19 syndrome for manifestations of their disability; and

20 WHEREAS, Educators may fail to understand that a child with  
21 Tourette syndrome is unable to control tics and that the child's  
22 maturity and emotional responses may be delayed; and

23 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome may face  
24 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,  
25 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their  
26 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

27 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with  
28 Disabilities Act to disregard disability when hiring or  
29 promoting individuals and to make reasonable accommodations to  
30 support their employees with Tourette syndrome so that the

1 employees can be successful in the workplace and not be forced  
2 to file for disability; and

3 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often very  
4 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when  
5 given the proper support; and

6 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from the success of employees  
7 with Tourette syndrome, but many employers neglect to hire,  
8 promote and make accommodations for individuals with Tourette  
9 syndrome; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,  
11 has been established to promote awareness and provide support  
12 and disability advocacy for individuals with Tourette syndrome  
13 in this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder helps guarantee hope for  
15 acceptance and a better future for individuals with Tourette  
16 syndrome; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 15  
18 through June 15, 2017, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in  
19 Pennsylvania and urge all residents to support the need for  
20 Tourette syndrome awareness and education to assist individuals  
21 and families who deal with this neurobiological disorder every  
22 day of their lives.