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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 741 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BOBACK, R. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DUSH, HILL-EVANS,  
KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, MATZIE, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT,  
NEILSON, RAPP, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY,  
STAATS, THOMAS, WARD, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 9, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 9, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2018 as "Brain Injury Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain  
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes  
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the  
7 brain secondary to trauma, stroke, aneurysms, postsurgical  
8 complications or certain acquired disease processes; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 3.5 million children  
10 and adults sustain an ABI each year; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 12 million Americans live with ABI,  
12 including stroke; and

13 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a subset of ABI, is an  
14 insult to the brain caused by a direct blow to the head, the  
15 head hitting an object or the head being shaken violently; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.5 million children and adults

1 sustain TBIs in the United States each year; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year, 2.2 million people are treated in  
3 emergency departments for TBIs and 280,000 individuals are  
4 hospitalized for TBIs; and

5 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
6 provides that the estimated economic cost of TBIs in 2010,  
7 including direct and indirect medical costs, was approximately  
8 \$76.5 billion; and

9 WHEREAS, The CDC shares that TBIs are a major cause of death  
10 and disability in the United States, contributing to  
11 approximately 30% of all injury deaths; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-  
13 related disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Every day, 137 individuals in the United States die  
15 from TBI-related injuries, and each year 50,000 individuals in  
16 the United States die from TBI; and

17 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania reports  
18 the following statistics relating to brain injuries in  
19 Pennsylvania:

20 (1) 245,621 individuals are living with brain injury;

21 (2) 2,223 individuals die from brain injuries each year;

22 (3) 10,463 individuals are hospitalized each year after  
23 brain injury;

24 (4) 49,505 individuals are seen in the emergency room  
25 following brain injury each year;

26 (5) 25,975 children suffer brain injuries each year; and

27 (6) 8,612 individuals sustain long-term or lifelong  
28 disabilities from brain injury each year;

29 and

30 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research

1 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain  
2 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss  
3 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research  
4 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury  
5 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of  
6 Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a  
8 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury  
9 Association of Pennsylvania, the Acquired Brain Injury Network  
10 of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition,  
11 Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation and  
12 Community Providers Association; and

13 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the  
14 Department of Health is also committed to expanding public  
15 knowledge regarding TBI as well as increasing coordination and  
16 integration within existing service delivery systems; and

17 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that  
18 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community  
19 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver,  
20 which over the next three years will be transitioned to the  
21 Community HealthChoices program; and

22 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded  
23 by the Department of Health and the Department of Education,  
24 provides assistance to students who have sustained an ABI and  
25 provides consultation through the students' school districts  
26 until graduation; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
28 month of March 2018 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in  
29 Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to

1 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut  
2 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; the  
3 Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, 777 East  
4 Park Drive, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111; and the  
5 Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc., PO Box 2164,  
6 Boothwyn, PA 19061.