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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 896 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY VAZQUEZ, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON,  
DIGIROLAMO, TOOHIL, SAINATO, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, BIZZARRO,  
WARD, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, R. BROWN, RYAN,  
KINSEY, MURT, BARBIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BOBACK, BULLOCK,  
M. QUINN, MILLARD, WARREN, DRISCOLL, J. McNEILL AND HEFFLEY,  
MAY 1, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 1, 2018

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2018 as "Asthma Awareness Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Asthma is a chronic lung disease that inflames and  
4 narrows the airways, causing recurring periods of wheezing,  
5 chest tightness, shortness of breath and coughing; and

6 WHEREAS, Asthma is known to affect more than 25 million  
7 Americans, including 7 million children, and often first appears  
8 during early childhood; and

9 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, more than 955,000 adults and  
10 more than 269,000 children currently suffer from asthma; and

11 WHEREAS, Asthma symptoms are often triggered by various  
12 environmental factors that an individual is particularly  
13 sensitive to such as pollen, chemicals, extreme weather changes,  
14 tobacco smoke, dust mites, stress and exercise; and

15 WHEREAS, The exact cause of asthma is not known but

1 researchers believe it is the result of a combination of genetic  
2 and environmental factors, and individuals with a family history  
3 of asthma or allergies are more prone to developing the disease;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Asthma is a long-term disease for which there is no  
6 cure, but education and proper medical care have helped many  
7 patients reduce the severity of symptoms and costs associated  
8 with asthma; and

9 WHEREAS, Treating asthma symptoms early is critical to ensure  
10 that the symptoms do not worsen and cause a severe asthma attack  
11 that may require emergency medical care or become fatal; and

12 WHEREAS, The goals of asthma treatment are to lessen the  
13 patient's burden and reduce the risk of exacerbation, airway  
14 damage and medication side effects; and

15 WHEREAS, Asthma imposes a substantial medical and financial  
16 burden on patients, their families and the community and leads  
17 many individuals to limit their everyday activities; and

18 WHEREAS, The Asthma Control Program, created by the  
19 Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Asthma Partnership,  
20 continues to enhance outreach efforts across this Commonwealth  
21 in order to improve asthma self-management strategies, increase  
22 preventive measures, reduce environmental triggers and provide  
23 resources to asthma patients and their families; and

24 WHEREAS, It is important that residents of this Commonwealth  
25 join efforts to increase awareness of asthma and support the  
26 asthma community in reducing asthma prevalence, morbidity and  
27 mortality, as well as ensuring that all individuals with asthma  
28 can lead successful and active lives; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
30 month of May 2018 as "Asthma Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.