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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 979 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROOKS, SONNEY, RYAN, HILL-  
EVANS, BURNS, THOMAS, GALLOWAY, KINSEY, ISAACSON, MURT,  
KORTZ, KENYATTA, MACKENZIE, HOWARD, T. DAVIS, BERNSTINE,  
CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, ROZZI, HEFFLEY, OWLETT, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, NEILSON, McNEILL, DEASY, READSHAW, DONATUCCI, WARREN  
AND KIRKLAND, AUGUST 28, 2020

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
AUGUST 28, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2020 as "National Epilepsy  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a neurological condition sometimes  
4 referred to as a seizure disorder and is characterized by  
5 recurring seizures; and

6 WHEREAS, A seizure is usually defined as a sudden alteration  
7 of behavior due to a temporary change in electrical functioning  
8 of the brain; and

9 WHEREAS, Normally, the brain continuously generates tiny  
10 electrical impulses in an orderly pattern, and these impulses  
11 travel along neurons and throughout the whole body via chemical  
12 messengers called neurotransmitters; and

13 WHEREAS, In epilepsy, the brain's electrical rhythms have a  
14 tendency to become imbalanced, resulting in recurrent seizures;  
15 and

1       WHEREAS, In patients with seizures, the normal electrical  
2 pattern is disrupted by sudden and synchronized bursts of  
3 electrical energy that may briefly affect their consciousness,  
4 movements or sensations; and

5       WHEREAS, As the fourth most common neurological disorder in  
6 the United States, following migraine, stroke and Alzheimer's  
7 disease, epilepsy affects 3.4 million Americans of all ages; and

8       WHEREAS, Approximately 150,000 new cases of epilepsy are  
9 diagnosed each year, most often in young children and senior  
10 citizens; and

11       WHEREAS, One in twenty-six people will develop epilepsy in  
12 his or her lifetime; and

13       WHEREAS, Up to 50,000 Americans die each year from seizures  
14 and related causes, including sudden unexplained death in  
15 epilepsy; and

16       WHEREAS, The Epilepsy Association of Western and Central  
17 Pennsylvania and the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania  
18 lead the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the  
19 challenges created by epilepsy; and

20       WHEREAS, The Epilepsy Association of Western and Central  
21 Pennsylvania and the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania  
22 are dedicated to ensuring that all people with seizures and  
23 epilepsy are able to participate in all of life's experiences;  
24 and

25       WHEREAS, The Epilepsy Association of Western and Central  
26 Pennsylvania and the Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania  
27 have been serving the needs of Pennsylvanians who live with  
28 seizures since 1972; and

29       WHEREAS, Misinformation and misperceptions regarding epilepsy  
30 have a long history and are still prevalent throughout society

1 today; and

2 WHEREAS, Epilepsy education and awareness programs seek to  
3 combat stigma in the hope of improving the quality of life for  
4 people with epilepsy; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
6 month of November 2020 as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" in  
7 Pennsylvania.