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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 456 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY SCOTT, HILL-EVANS, GIRAL, SCHMITT, PIELLI, VENKAT,  
MARCELL, KINSEY, PROBST, McNEILL, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, NEILSON,  
SCHLOSSBERG, HADDOCK, MERSKI, JOZWIAK, BURGOS, DELLOSO,  
CURRY, CIRESI AND ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 3, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 3, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 5 through 11, 2024, as "Correctional  
2 Officers Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Correctional officers play a vital role in the  
4 criminal justice system as they maintain the security and  
5 operation of correctional facilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Correctional officers are essential in ensuring the  
7 safety of incarcerated individuals and staff in correctional  
8 facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Correctional officers are responsible for regular  
10 searches and inspections in order to mitigate the issue of  
11 contraband; and

12 WHEREAS, With training in crisis intervention and conflict  
13 resolution, correctional officers are tasked with de-escalating  
14 potentially dangerous situations and preventing violence; and

15 WHEREAS, As efforts to reform the criminal justice system  
16 have increased, the role of correctional officers has evolved to  
17 include the rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals; and

1       WHEREAS, Correctional officers are crucial in implementing  
2 programs intended to reduce recidivism and encouraging positive  
3 outcomes for incarcerated individuals; and

4       WHEREAS, Correctional officers may assume a support role as  
5 they engage with incarcerated individuals who are navigating  
6 mental health challenges, substance use disorders and additional  
7 rehabilitative concerns; and

8       WHEREAS, The interpersonal and communication skills of  
9 correctional officers are paramount in fostering positive  
10 interactions with incarcerated individuals and staff; and

11       WHEREAS, While correctional officers are important in the  
12 successful operation of correctional facilities, they face  
13 various challenges in their line of work; and

14       WHEREAS, As correctional officers work in high-stress  
15 environments, they are regularly exposed to violence, increasing  
16 their risk of harm; and

17       WHEREAS, These stressors often adversely affect correctional  
18 officers' mental health, consequently leading to post-traumatic  
19 stress disorder and burnout; and

20       WHEREAS, Institutional challenges, such as overcrowding,  
21 further complicate the strain placed on correctional officers;  
22 and

23       WHEREAS, Furthermore, insufficient resources such as  
24 inadequate staffing and training programs cause difficulties in  
25 effectively navigating institutional challenges; and

26       WHEREAS, Correctional officers deserve to be recognized for  
27 their indispensable contributions to the criminal justice  
28 system; and

29       WHEREAS, "National Correctional Officers Week" has been  
30 observed since 1984 to thank correctional officers for their

1 service; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 week of May 5 through 11, 2024, as "Correctional Officers Week"  
4 in Pennsylvania.