

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the critical shortage of nurses in this  
2 Commonwealth, acknowledging the importance of reducing the  
3 nursing shortage and recognizing the vital role nurses play  
4 in helping to save lives, and commending the Independence  
5 Blue Cross Nurse Scholars Program on its 10th anniversary for  
6 its diligent efforts to reduce the nursing shortage in the  
7 southeastern portion of this Commonwealth.

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Center for Workforce Information  
9 and Analysis estimates the current Statewide shortage of nurses  
10 as 4.9% and projects that the shortage could grow to 14.2% by  
11 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, The Independence Blue Cross Nurse Scholars Program  
13 was created ten years ago to address the severe threat posed to  
14 the quality and cost of health care by the nursing shortage in  
15 the southeastern portion of this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Since 2004, Independence Blue Cross (IBC) and the  
17 IBC Foundation have provided more than \$10 million in nurse-  
18 related funding; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the course of the program, more than 1,300  
20 scholarships have been awarded to undergraduate nursing students

1 at 31 accredited nursing programs in the southeastern portion of  
2 this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 1,500 scholarships have been provided to  
4 master's-level and doctorate-level students pursuing a degree in  
5 nursing education; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the inception of the program, 15,000 nursing  
7 students have graduated from IBC-supported undergraduate  
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Twenty-nine undergraduate nursing programs reported  
10 more than double the number of graduates than was reported in  
11 2002; and

12 WHEREAS, Over a seven-year span, total enrollment at the 12  
13 supported graduate nursing programs in the southeastern portion  
14 of this Commonwealth rose 79%, from 1,416 students enrolled in  
15 2003 to 2,544 students enrolled in fall 2009; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to ensuring that there are enough nurses  
17 to care for those in need, the IBC Foundation is working with  
18 local agencies to increase the number of nurses able to care for  
19 diverse populations in different health care settings as more  
20 newly insured people seek health care after health care reform  
21 is fully implemented; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
23 critical shortage of nurses in this Commonwealth and acknowledge  
24 the importance of reducing the nursing shortage and recognize  
25 the vital role nurses play in helping to save lives; and be if  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the  
28 Independence Blue Cross Nurse Scholars Program on its 10th  
29 anniversary for its diligent efforts to reduce the nursing  
30 shortage in the southeastern portion of this Commonwealth.