

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
2 Masons of Pennsylvania for its work and commitment to
3 children.

4 WHEREAS, The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is the
5 oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in
6 the world; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1717, four lodges of Freemasons meeting in
8 London, England, formed the first Grand Lodge; and

9 WHEREAS, The first Grand Lodge chartered Symbolic Lodges and
10 Provincial Grand Lodges in many countries, including the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, Today there are 51 Grand Lodges in the United States
13 and approximately 1,600,000 Freemasons; and

14 WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of
15 Pennsylvania (Lodge) was established on June 24, 1731, by
16 delegates from the 13 lodges holding charters from the
17 Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, The Lodge is one of the oldest Grand Lodges in this

1 country; and

2 WHEREAS, The Lodge is of the Ancients' tradition and its
3 ancestor Grand Lodge is the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
4 Masons of England, which was founded in 1751; and

5 WHEREAS, The headquarters of the Lodge is in the Masonic
6 Temple at 1 North Broad Street in Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, Brother Raymond T. Dietz is the current Grand Master
8 of the Lodge; and

9 WHEREAS, Freemasonry is a way of life that teaches tolerance
10 toward all mankind; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Lodge, "Freemasonry is kindness in
12 the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in
13 work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance towards
14 evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for
15 one another and above all reverence and love for God"; and

16 WHEREAS, Shriners International, also commonly known as the
17 Shriners, is an organization that is an appendant body of
18 freemasonry and that operates 20 children's hospitals in the
19 United States with two in this Commonwealth, including one in
20 Erie and one in Philadelphia, and two children's hospitals in
21 Canada and Mexico; and

22 WHEREAS, Shriners Hospitals for Children is one of the
23 largest pediatric subspecialty health care systems in the world,
24 providing specialized care to children with orthopedic
25 conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and
26 palate; and

27 WHEREAS, The Shriners are dedicated to improving the lives of
28 children through innovative care, world-class research and
29 outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals; and

30 WHEREAS, Each of the 22 children's hospital locations

1 specializes in one or more of the broad service lines of
2 specialized care, and all care and services are provided to
3 children up to 18 years of age regardless of the families'
4 ability to pay; and

5 WHEREAS, For more than two decades, the Scottish Rite Masons,
6 Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, have been national leaders in the
7 effort to help children and their families overcome the painful
8 obstacles of dyslexia; and

9 WHEREAS, With more than 40 dyslexia centers in 13 states, the
10 Children's Dyslexia Centers tackle the challenge of dyslexia by
11 providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by
12 training a growing cadre of highly skilled and dedicated tutors;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The treatment of dyslexia, which is an inherited
15 neurological disorder that affects the way individuals learn to
16 read and speak as well as how they process things
17 mathematically, is critical to enable individuals to achieve
18 fully functional lives; and

19 WHEREAS, Dyslexia affects one out of every five individuals
20 and affects boys and girls in equal numbers; and

21 WHEREAS, The efforts of the Lodge, and freemasonry in
22 general, through the Shriners and the Children's Dyslexia
23 Centers on behalf of children are invaluable and indispensable;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
26 honor the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of
27 Pennsylvania for its work and commitment to children.

