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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 255 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, D. MILLER, BAKER, BISHOP, BOBACK,  
V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER,  
COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
P. DALEY, DAVIS, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, ELLIS,  
ENGLISH, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FEE, GABLER, GIBBONS, GILLEN,  
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HARHART, A. HARRIS, J. HARRIS,  
HEFFLEY, IRVIN, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, W. KELLER, KILLION, KIM,  
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR,  
MARSHALL, MARSICO, McCARTER, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO,  
NEUMAN, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUIGLEY,  
READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROSS, ROZZI, SANKEY, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SCHREIBER, SNYDER, SONNEY, STURLA, TAYLOR, THOMAS, VEREB,  
WARD, WATSON, WHEELAND AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 15, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 15, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2015 as "Autism Awareness Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex neurological  
4 developmental disability which impacts a person's ability to  
5 learn and communicate with others; and

6 WHEREAS, Autism is a spectrum disorder and therefore affects  
7 individuals differently to varying degrees; and

8 WHEREAS, Greater recognition, understanding and awareness of  
9 autism spectrum disorder is necessary to accurately diagnose and  
10 appropriately support individuals living with this disorder; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no single known cause of autism, and, while  
12 children do not outgrow autism, studies have shown that with

1 diagnosis and treatment at an early age, symptoms related to  
2 autism can be considerably improved and in some cases completely  
3 overcome; and

4 WHEREAS, Autism is diagnosed four times more often in boys  
5 than in girls and its prevalence is not affected by race, region  
6 or socioeconomic status; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 1% of the world population and  
8 approximately 1 in 68 births in the United States is diagnosed  
9 with autism spectrum disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, The prevalence of autism spectrum disorder has  
11 increased by more than 119% in the United States since the year  
12 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism  
14 has been estimated to be as much as \$2.4 million, and annual  
15 costs nationwide are estimated to be \$175 billion to \$196  
16 billion for adults and \$61 billion to \$66 billion for children;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services within the Department  
19 of Human Services has been established with a mission to develop  
20 and manage service and support to enhance the quality of life of  
21 Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorder and to  
22 support their families and caregivers; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 month of April 2015 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania  
25 and encourage its observance throughout this Commonwealth.