

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 532 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, FEE, WHEELAND, O'BRIEN, VEREB,
 J. HARRIS, ROEBUCK, THOMAS, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE,
 SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, C. PARKER, HEFFLEY, DRISCOLL,
 DIGIROLAMO, MURT, MAHONEY, MILLARD, GERGELY, BIZZARRO,
 SCHWEYER, KIRKLAND, PASHINSKI, KINSEY, COHEN, BULLOCK,
 WATSON, O'NEILL, STURLA, DAVIS, ROSS, MAJOR, FARINA, GOODMAN,
 GINGRICH, YOUNGBLOOD, D. COSTA, SAYLOR, WARD, SAMUELSON,
 SCHLEGEL CULVER AND NEILSON, OCTOBER 8, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
 OCTOBER 8, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 22, 2015, as "Lights on Afterschool Day" in
 2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 28 million children in the United States
 4 have parents who work outside the home and more than 15 million
 5 children are left unsupervised after the school bell rings; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 1.3 million children between 6 and 17 years
 7 of age in Pennsylvania have both parents in the work force or,
 8 in single parent families, the sole parent in the work force;
 9 and

10 WHEREAS, Twenty-six percent of the nation's school-age
 11 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after
 12 school; and

13 WHEREAS, Afterschool hours represent the single biggest block
 14 of time for children and youth and a key time during the

1 development of children into adolescents and adolescents into
2 adults; and

3 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs provide safe, challenging,
4 engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth
5 develop academic, cultural, emotional, physical and social
6 skills; and

7 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs support working families by
8 ensuring that their children are safe and productive during
9 afterschool hours; and

10 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs offer a fun and supportive
11 educational environment for Science, Technology, Engineering and
12 Mathematics (STEM); and

13 WHEREAS, A recent national survey found that 52% of parents
14 cite cost as a barrier to enrolling their children in
15 afterschool programs; and

16 WHEREAS, Research illustrates that high-quality programming
17 improves student achievement, reduces crime by and against
18 children and youth and promotes positive social development; and

19 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs build stronger communities by
20 involving parents, business leaders and student and adult
21 volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting
22 positive relationships among children, youth, families and
23 adults; and

24 WHEREAS, "Lights on Afterschool Day," a national celebration
25 of afterschool programs held on October 22, 2015, promotes the
26 critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives
27 of children, their families and their communities; therefore be
28 it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
30 22, 2015, as "Lights on Afterschool Day" in Pennsylvania.