A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring the month of May 2004 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection carried primarily by ticks and is caused by the spirochete Borrelia burgdorferi; and

5 WHEREAS, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and disorders, such as babesiosis, Bartonella and ehrlichiosis, pose a serious threat to the quality of life of many Pennsylvanians, with the frequency of diagnosed and reported Lyme disease cases increasing dramatically over the past several years; and
WHEREAS, The most common way to acquire Lyme disease is to be bitten by a tick that carries the spirochete; and
WHEREAS, The prevention of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disorders is difficult; and
WHEREAS, If proper caution is taken while engaged in outdoor activities from early spring through late fall, as well as during a warmer winter season, frequent tick checks are made and ticks are removed and disposed of promptly and properly, the people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce their chances of tick pathogen transmission; and
WHEREAS, The early clinical diagnosis and appropriate treatment of these tick-borne disorders and diseases can greatly reduce the risks of continued, diverse and chronic symptoms which can affect every system and organ of the human body and often every aspect of their lives; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare the month of May 2004 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania in a continued effort to benefit the overall health and quality of life of the citizens of this Commonwealth by increasing their awareness of the threat of infected tick bites and the potential seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disorders.