

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 225      Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY WOJNAROSKI, READSHAW, FORCIER, J. EVANS, RUBLEY, BEBKO-JONES, LEDERER, BAKER, WALKO, MAITLAND, GEIST, THOMAS, DONATUCCI, ROSS, BISHOP, MAJOR, COY, MARKOSEK, HASAY, CAPPELLI, SAMUELSON, GINGRICH, LEH, MACKERETH, COSTA, BARRAR, WILT, ROHRER, BELARDI, MUNDY, CAWLEY, WATSON, R. STEVENSON, PHILLIPS, CREIGHTON, SURRA, KOTIK, FLEAGLE, HERMAN, TRUE, LEACH, MANN, YOUNGBLOOD, LEWIS, B. SMITH, GERGELY, SCHRODER, FLICK, MCGILL, GRUCELA, BUNT, DeWEESE, WANSACZ, McILHATTAN, HUTCHINSON, SAYLOR, TIGUE, SOLOBAY, LESCOVITZ, J. TAYLOR, STABACK, PERZEL, SAINATO, PICKETT, HESS, CLYMER, McCALL, SANTONI, KELLER, MARSICO, SCRIMENTI, CRAHALLA, McNAUGHTON, DeLUCA, HARPER, BELFANTI, WHEATLEY, GILLESPIE, EGOLF, LAUGHLIN, ADOLPH, E. Z. TAYLOR, TANGRETTI, D. EVANS, HERSHEY, McGEEHAN, PAYNE, S. MILLER, MELIO, TRAVAGLIO, JAMES, HENNESSEY, WASHINGTON, HICKERNELL, SCAVELLO, BENNINGHOFF, KIRKLAND, MANDERINO, HARHAI, GOODMAN, FRANKEL, GABIG, REICHLEY, SHANER, BARD, PISTELLA, FREEMAN, ROBERTS, CIVERA, HORSEY, BROWNE, DALLY, HARHART, JOSEPHS, J. WILLIAMS AND CORRIGAN, APRIL 24, 2003

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 24, 2003

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2003 as "Child Abuse Prevention  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Children bring happiness into our lives and hope to  
4 our future; and

5 WHEREAS, Children are our greatest joy and our most important  
6 responsibility; and

7 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility as parents, friends,  
8 neighbors, citizens and lawmakers to nurture and protect  
9 children, providing an atmosphere of love and respect in which

1 they are able to grow into healthy, well-adjusted and productive  
2 adults; and

3 WHEREAS, We, as a legislative body, have an ongoing  
4 commitment to protect the rights and needs of children; and

5 WHEREAS, In December 1999 the Senate directed the Joint State  
6 Government Commission to study child abuse within this  
7 Commonwealth and make recommendations to the General Assembly;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has defined child abuse as any  
10 "recent act or failure to act by a perpetrator which causes  
11 nonaccidental serious physical injury to a child under 18 years  
12 of age" or an "act or failure to act by a perpetrator which  
13 causes nonaccidental serious mental injury to or sexual abuse or  
14 sexual exploitation of a child under 18 years of age" and has  
15 made it illegal to engage in such activity; and

16 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and  
17 geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions  
18 across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, There were 22,397 cases of possible child abuse or  
20 maltreatment referred for investigation in this Commonwealth in  
21 1999; and

22 WHEREAS, There were 5,076 substantiated cases of child abuse  
23 and neglect in this Commonwealth in 1999; and

24 WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social  
25 service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout  
26 this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the  
27 victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

28 WHEREAS, In spite of the dedication and sacrifice of these  
29 individuals, much more still needs to be done to guarantee a  
30 childhood free of abuse and victimization to every child in this

1 Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, As our knowledge about the prevention and treatment  
3 of child abuse grows, we must provide support, information and  
4 guidance to families in which child abuse may happen; therefore  
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 month of April 2003 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in  
8 Pennsylvania; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to do  
10 its part in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for  
11 all children in this Commonwealth so that they might grow up to  
12 be healthy and productive citizens; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the many  
14 individuals and community groups and organizations who work  
15 daily to treat and prevent child abuse in this Commonwealth and  
16 urge all Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the  
17 tragedy of child abuse.