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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 730 Session of  
2004

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BALDWIN, BISHOP, CAUSER, CIVERA,  
CORRIGAN, CRUZ, DALEY, GEIST, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHAI,  
HERSHEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN,  
LEDERER, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McILHATTAN, NAILOR, PALLONE,  
READSHAW, ROONEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, B. SMITH, STURLA,  
SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, WALKO, WATERS, WOJNAROSKI, GEORGE,  
SCAVELLO, SANTONI, FORCIER, SCRIMENTI, HERMAN, BEBKO-JONES  
AND GOODMAN, MAY 11, 2004

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 11, 2004

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2004 as "Mental Health Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall health,  
4 vitality and well-being of individuals, families, communities  
5 and businesses; and

6 WHEREAS, Mental health problems can affect individuals of  
7 every race, creed, age or economic status; and

8 WHEREAS, One in five American adults and one in ten American  
9 young people are affected by a mental illness; and

10 WHEREAS, People with mental illnesses have the same needs and  
11 are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans, but they  
12 experience discrimination in education, employment and housing;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Discrimination of this kind often keeps people with

1 mental illnesses from seeking treatment and support; and

2 WHEREAS, An estimated two-thirds of adults and young people  
3 with mental health problems are not getting the help they need;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for those adults  
6 with mental illness costs public and private employers billions  
7 of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and low  
8 productivity; and

9 WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for young people  
10 with mental illness can lead to failure in school, substance  
11 abuse and even suicide; and

12 WHEREAS, With proper treatment and support, individuals with  
13 mental illness can lead full, productive lives; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to community-based  
15 systems of mental health care in which all residents can receive  
16 high-quality and consumer-responsive services; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Mental Health Association, the National  
18 Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare and their national  
19 partners observe "Mental Health Month" every May to raise  
20 awareness and understanding of mental health and mental illness;  
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
23 month of May 2004 as "Mental Health Month" in Pennsylvania; and  
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That all citizens, government agencies, public and  
26 private institutions, businesses and schools be urged to  
27 recommit our communities to increasing awareness and  
28 understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and  
29 accessible services for all people with mental illness.