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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 190 Session of  
2005

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INTRODUCED BY WOJNAROSKI, LEDERER, RUBLEY, CRUZ, SAINATO,  
THOMAS, MCGILL, YOUNGBLOOD, CORRIGAN, DONATUCCI, GINGRICH,  
ADOLPH, FORCIER, SATHER, NAILOR, WILT, DERMODY, HERSHEY,  
TRUE, S. H. SMITH, PHILLIPS, ROHRER, BELARDI, PALLONE,  
FLEAGLE, PAYNE, CREIGHTON, GEIST, McILHATTAN, SAMUELSON,  
BISHOP, BAKER, GOOD, ROSS, TURZAI, DENLINGER, HENNESSEY,  
MARKOSEK, MARSICO, CALTAGIRONE, CURRY, BEBKO-JONES, FABRIZIO,  
HARRIS, HERMAN, JAMES, MUSTIO, READSHAW, TIGUE, ZUG, FICHTER,  
CLYMER, DeLUCA, KOTIK, DeWEESE, COHEN, GABIG, SHAPIRO,  
BARRAR, HICKERNELL, SANTONI, SURRA, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STURLA,  
LEH, S. MILLER, O'NEILL, TANGRETTI AND MANN, MARCH 29, 2005

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 29, 2005

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2005 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  
10 they are able to grow into healthy, well-adjusted and productive  
11 adults; and

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

1       WHEREAS, In December 1999 the Senate directed the Joint State  
2 Government Commission to study child abuse within this  
3 Commonwealth and make recommendations to the General Assembly;  
4 and

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

12       WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and  
13 geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions  
14 across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

15       WHEREAS, There were 23,602 cases of possible child abuse or  
16 maltreatment referred for investigation in this Commonwealth in  
17 2003; and

18       WHEREAS, There were 4,523 substantiated cases of child abuse  
19 and neglect in this Commonwealth in 2003; and

20       WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social  
21 service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout  
22 this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the  
23 victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

24       WHEREAS, In spite of the dedication and sacrifice of these  
25 individuals, much more still needs to be done to guarantee a  
26 childhood free of abuse and victimization to every child in this  
27 Commonwealth; and

28       WHEREAS, As our knowledge about the prevention and treatment  
29 of child abuse grows, we must provide support, information and  
30 guidance to families in which child abuse may happen; therefore

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 month of April 2005 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in  
4 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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