

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 3

Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY D. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, STURLA,  
McILVAINE SMITH, KOTIK, PHILLIPS, SHAPIRO, RAPP, BAKER,  
BARRAR, BEAR, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BENNINGTON, BEYER,  
BIANCUCCI, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, BROOKS, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE,  
CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CIVERA, COHEN, CONKLIN, CREIGHTON, DALEY,  
DALLY, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT,  
FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE,  
GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL,  
GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARKINS, HARPER, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY,  
HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, W. KELLER,  
KENNEY, KILLION, KING, KULA, LEACH, MACKERETH, MAHONEY,  
MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, MARSICO,  
McILHATTAN, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MOYER,  
MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, NAILOR, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER,  
PAYNE, PEIFER, PETRONE, PICKETT, PRESTON, RAMALEY, READSHAW,  
REED, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY,  
SABATINA, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SHIMKUS, SIPTROTH,  
K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, SURRA, SWANGER, THOMAS,  
TRUE, TURZAI, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WATSON, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI  
AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 24, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 24, 2008

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2008, as "World Autism Day" and the month  
2 of April 2008 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism, a complex disability often involving mental  
4 retardation, requires greater recognition and understanding to  
5 ensure that all individuals with autism, whether or not they  
6 have mental retardation, are accurately diagnosed and  
7 appropriately treated throughout their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism is a developmental disability resulting in

1 significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn,  
2 develop healthy interactive behaviors and understand verbal,  
3 nonverbal and reciprocal communication; and

4 WHEREAS, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder  
5 affecting brain function, which few members of the general  
6 public understand; and

7 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism has not been found,  
8 individuals with autism can be assisted in reaching their  
9 greatest potential through accurate early diagnosis, appropriate  
10 education and intervention; and

11 WHEREAS, About 1 in 150 American children has autism, which  
12 has been called an urgent public health concern that is more  
13 common than previously thought; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare recently created  
15 the Office of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau  
16 of Autism Services to provide expertise and support for all  
17 agencies serving Pennsylvanians with autism; and

18 WHEREAS, Creation of the Bureau of Autism Services, along  
19 with the Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services  
20 and supports for autistic children and adults, will bring about  
21 a new day for those individuals and their families; therefore be  
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April  
24 2, 2008, as "World Autism Day" in Pennsylvania and the month of  
25 April 2008 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge  
26 its observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit of  
27 all who are diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum and their  
28 families.