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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 503 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, BELFANTI, SHIMKUS, READSHAW, HARHAI, BRENNAN, GEORGE, DONATUCCI, GERGELY, LEACH, MELIO, GIBBONS, GRUCELA, JAMES, JOSEPHS, W. KELLER, LENTZ, MCGEEHAN, RAMALEY, M. O'BRIEN, MILLARD, MUNDY, MOYER, PALLONE, HESS, HENNESSEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SCHRODER, SEIP, STERN, STURLA, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, VULAKOVICH, WATERS, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, BISHOP, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, GINGRICH, HARPER, HARKINS, HERSHEY, EVERETT, FLECK, KENNEY, MANTZ, PARKER, MURT, HORNAMAN, HELM, PICKETT, PHILLIPS, SONNEY, SURRA, MARSHALL AND MYERS, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 2, 2007

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging public awareness of the dangers and prevention methods  
2 associated with Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus  
3 infections.

4 WHEREAS, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)  
5 is a strain of ubiquitous "staph" bacterium that causes  
6 infections and is resistant to usual antibiotic treatments; and

7 WHEREAS, There are primarily two types of MRSA infections,  
8 which are health care-associated infections and community-  
9 acquired infections; and

10 WHEREAS, Health care-associated infections are the most  
11 common type of MRSA infections which occur among people in  
12 hospitals and health care facilities, such as nursing homes and  
13 dialysis centers, and include surgical wound infections, urinary  
14 tract infections, bloodstream infections and pneumonia; and

1       WHEREAS, Community-acquired MRSA infections occur in people  
2 outside of hospitals and health care facilities and are commonly  
3 seen among sports teams, schools, prisons, military facilities  
4 and other places where there is frequent skin-to-skin contact  
5 and sharing of commonly used items; and

6       WHEREAS, Community-acquired MRSA usually appears as a pimple,  
7 boil or abscess that is red, swollen, painful and may have pus  
8 or drainage; and

9       WHEREAS, It is important for anyone who has these symptoms to  
10 see a doctor because if untreated, MRSA can lead to more serious  
11 infections; and

12       WHEREAS, In some cases, MRSA can travel to the lungs, causing  
13 unusually serious pneumonia, or to bones, vital organs and the  
14 bloodstream, triggering life-threatening complications; and

15       WHEREAS, A recent study released in the Journal of the  
16 American Medical Association reports that MRSA is responsible  
17 for more than 94,000 serious infections and nearly 19,000 deaths  
18 each year; and

19       WHEREAS, The study concludes that MRSA is striking 31 out of  
20 every 100,000 Americans, causing more deaths each year than  
21 AIDS; and

22       WHEREAS, MRSA is spread most often by the hands and skin-to-  
23 skin contact, but it is preventable when appropriate hygiene  
24 practices are followed; and

25       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends  
26 several precautions for minimizing the spread of MRSA  
27 infections, including keeping one's hands clean by washing  
28 thoroughly with soap and water, keeping cuts and scrapes clean  
29 and covered until they are healed, avoiding contact with other  
30 people's wounds, avoiding sharing personal items such as towels,

1 razors or clothing and routinely cleaning commonly used items  
2 like sporting equipment; and

3 WHEREAS, Recent studies and news coverage serve as a warning  
4 to the general public about the serious nature of MRSA;  
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge residents of  
7 this Commonwealth to be aware of the dangers of Methicillin-  
8 resistant Staphylococcus aureus and understand the importance of  
9 proper hygiene and first aid care in order to combat this very  
10 serious condition.