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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 588 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, GEIST, KORTZ, DEASY, BISHOP, BOBACK,  
K. BOYLE, BRENNAN, BROOKS, V. BROWN, CLYMER, DALEY, DeWEESE,  
DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GINGRICH,  
GOODMAN, GROVE, HAHN, HARHART, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HESS,  
HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, KIRKLAND, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY,  
MAJOR, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL,  
MURT, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, ROCK, ROSS, SCAVELLO,  
SONNEY, STEPHENS, SWANGER, VEREB, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD,  
BENNINGHOFF, GILLEN AND ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 29, 2012

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2012 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

14 WHEREAS, In December 1999 the Senate directed the Joint State

1 Government Commission to study child abuse within this  
2 Commonwealth and make recommendations to the General Assembly;  
3 and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, There were 23,181 cases of possible child abuse or  
15 maltreatment referred for investigation in this Commonwealth in  
16 2006; and

17 WHEREAS, There were 4,152 substantiated cases of child abuse  
18 and neglect in this Commonwealth in 2006; and

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

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

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

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
2 month of April 2012 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in  
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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