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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 616 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, ADOLPH, BAKER, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN,  
BROOKS, R. BROWN, CAUSER, CLYMER, CUTLER, DALEY, DAVIS,  
DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FREEMAN, GABLER,  
GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HARHAI,  
HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, M. K. KELLER, KILLION,  
KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MICOZZIE,  
MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PICKETT, READSHAW,  
ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STERN,  
STEVENSON, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, ELLIS AND  
DeLUCA, MARCH 12, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH  
12, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 2012 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and  
2 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 17,000 people will be  
4 diagnosed with esophageal cancer in the United States in 2012,  
5 and more than 15,000 will die from the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest cancers and  
7 fewer than one in five patients will survive for five years; and

8 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer often is not detected and  
9 diagnosed until the disease has reached the later stages, and  
10 treatment is often radical, likely to cause complications and  
11 the outcomes are poor; and

12 WHEREAS, One of the most common causes of esophageal cancer  
13 is heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is

1 viewed by many sufferers as an acceptable condition of life, and  
2 GERD can lead to Barrett's Esophagus, which results in as much  
3 as a 125-fold increase in a person's chance to develop  
4 esophageal cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, With monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential  
6 for long-term irreversible damage leading to esophageal cancer  
7 can be avoided; and

8 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can even occur without reflux  
9 symptoms, history of smoking or excessive alcohol use; and

10 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the cancers that receive  
11 the least amount of Federal medical research funding; and

12 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians will  
13 be enhanced by improving esophageal cancer awareness, prevention  
14 and increased research funding into the early detection and  
15 treatment strategies; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April  
17 2012 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month" in  
18 Pennsylvania and encourage citizens to take steps to prevent  
19 this disease through treatment of gastroesophageal reflux.