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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 768 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY MILNE, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN,  
D. COSTA, DEASY, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GEIST,  
GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HARHART,  
HICKERNELL, JAMES, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY,  
MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MURT,  
MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW,  
ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY,  
STERN, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATERS AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JUNE 11, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE  
11, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of August 2012 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a severe  
4 neurological disorder characterized by muscle atrophy and  
5 weakness that generally manifests itself early in life and is  
6 the leading genetic cause of death in infants and toddlers; and

7 WHEREAS, SMA is an autosomal recessive genetic disease,  
8 meaning that a person must have two copies of a defective gene  
9 to have the disease; and

10 WHEREAS, SMA carriers do not exhibit SMA symptoms, but do  
11 carry a defective copy of the defective gene; and

12 WHEREAS, If both parents are carriers of the SMA gene, then  
13 each of their children has a one in four chance of having the  
14 disease; and

1       WHEREAS, There are many types of SMA, and some types of SMA  
2 are fatal; and

3       WHEREAS, Life expectancy varies for the various types of SMA;  
4 and

5       WHEREAS, While there is no cure for SMA, medicines and  
6 physical therapy help treat symptoms; and

7       WHEREAS, Approximately six million Americans, or one in 50  
8 people, are carriers of the SMA gene; and

9       WHEREAS, SMA has generally been believed to affect as many as  
10 10,000 to 25,000 children and adults in the United States; and

11       WHEREAS, SMA is one of the most common rare diseases, with an  
12 incidence comparable to cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular  
13 dystrophy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); and

14       WHEREAS, Intellectual activity is unaffected by SMA, and it  
15 is often observed that patients with SMA are unusually bright  
16 and sociable; and

17       WHEREAS, SMA crosses all racial, ethnic and gender boundaries  
18 and, although it is primarily diagnosed in children, it can  
19 affect people at any age; and

20       WHEREAS, The goal of SMA advocacy organizations is to raise  
21 awareness of SMA and the need for funding research, education,  
22 advocacy and patient services for those who suffer from SMA;  
23 therefore be it

24       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
25 month of August 2012 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness  
26 Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness of SMA and the need  
27 for research, education and services for individuals diagnosed  
28 with SMA.