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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 389 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, AUMENT, BAKER, BARRAR, BISHOP,  
BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROOKS, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, COHEN, CORBIN,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, CUTLER, P. DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,  
EVERETT, FARINA, FLECK, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, HAGGERTY, HAHN,  
HARHAI, HARHART, C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL,  
KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND,  
KNOWLES, LUCAS, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MASSER,  
MCNEILL, METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, D. MILLER, MILNE,  
MIRANDA, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PAINTER, QUINN, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL,  
READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY,  
STEVENSON, SWANGER, THOMAS, TURZAI, VEREB, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD,  
EMRICK AND GROVE, JUNE 24, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 24, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2013 as "Childhood Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, honoring those young people  
3 who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, expressing  
4 gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care  
5 to patients and families affected by childhood cancer, and  
6 encouraging all citizens to join the fight against childhood  
7 cancer in this Commonwealth.

8 WHEREAS, Childhood cancers make up less than 1% of all  
9 cancers diagnosed each year and childhood cancer rates have been  
10 rising slightly for the past few decades; and

11 WHEREAS, Childhood cancer is the second leading cause of  
12 death in children under the age of 15, exceeded only by  
13 accidents and about 1,310 children are expected to die of cancer  
14 in 2013; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that about

1 11,630 children in the United States under the age of 15 will be  
2 diagnosed with cancer in 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, The potential years of life lost to childhood cancer  
4 and the potential years of life saved by treatment exceed all  
5 other cancers with the exception of breast cancer; and

6 WHEREAS, Most children cannot be treated at a local hospital,  
7 and families must face the disruption of moving for treatment at  
8 a regional cancer center; and

9 WHEREAS, Because of major treatment advances in recent  
10 decades, more than 80% of children with cancer now survive 5  
11 years or more; and

12 WHEREAS, This is a huge increase since the mid-1970s, when  
13 the 5-year survival rate was less than 60%; and

14 WHEREAS, Survival rates vary depending on the type of cancer  
15 and other factors; and

16 WHEREAS, There is significant progress that still must be  
17 made with regard to childhood cancer treatment, because there  
18 are many types of childhood cancer, and some varieties with  
19 lower survival rates are still very difficult to treat; and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in the fight against and  
21 treatment of childhood cancer with six Children's Oncology Group  
22 hospitals, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, The  
23 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Geisinger Medical Center,  
24 Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenburg, Hershey Medical Center and  
25 Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and

26 WHEREAS, Two of only ten institutions in the Pediatric Brain  
27 Tumor Consortium are in Pennsylvania, The Children's Hospital of  
28 Philadelphia and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Penn  
29 State Hershey Children's Hospital is one of only 11 institutions  
30 nationwide in the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutic

1 Consortium; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 month of September 2013 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in  
4 Pennsylvania; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor those young  
6 people who have lost their lives to childhood cancer, express  
7 gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care to  
8 patients and families affected by childhood cancer, and  
9 encourage all citizens to join the fight against childhood  
10 cancer in this Commonwealth.