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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 436 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, BAKER, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,  
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, HAGGERTY, HENNESSEY,  
KAVULICH, LONGIETTI, LUCAS, MAJOR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD,  
MIRANDA, O'BRIEN, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD,  
MCNEILL, D. MILLER, BROWNLEE, ROSS, C. HARRIS AND GOODMAN,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2013 as "Infant Mortality  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Infant mortality refers to the number of infants who  
4 die during their first year of life;

5 WHEREAS, Infant mortality is measured by an infant mortality  
6 rate, the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births in a  
7 given year; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2011, the United States ranked 145th among  
9 industrialized countries in the number of infant mortalities and  
10 the United States infant mortality rate was 6.05 infant deaths  
11 per 1,000 live births; and

12 WHEREAS, The leading causes of infant deaths include: low  
13 birth weight, congenital malformations, Sudden Infant Death  
14 Syndrome (SIDS) and maternal complications; and

15 WHEREAS, Poverty, limited access to health care, stress, poor

1 prenatal care, lack of exercise, diet and nutrition are factors  
2 that can contribute to negative pregnancy and birth outcomes,  
3 which can lead to high infant mortality rates; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks 34th in the nation with an infant  
5 mortality rate of 7.3; and

6 WHEREAS, The infant mortality rate in Allegheny County was  
7 8.3 per 1,000 live births in 2008 and a rate of 7.5 per 1,000  
8 live births in 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health Services  
10 Office of Minority Health reports that African Americans have  
11 2.3 times the infant mortality rates as Hispanic Caucasians and  
12 African-American infants are almost four times as likely to die  
13 due to complications related to low birth weight compared to  
14 non-Hispanic Caucasian infants; and

15 Whereas, In 2009, the infant mortality rate among African-  
16 American residents of Allegheny County was 20.7; and

17 WHEREAS, Programs such as the Healthy Start project assist  
18 women in urban and rural communities in 39 states, the District  
19 of Columbia and Puerto Rico with their prenatal care needs and  
20 specifically, Healthy Start projects provide women with access  
21 to prenatal care, basic health needs and support positive  
22 prenatal health behaviors; and

23 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to six Healthy Start  
24 programs and the Healthy Start program servicing  
25 Pittsburgh/Allegheny County area is one of 15 special project  
26 areas that the National Healthy Start Association deemed  
27 necessary due to the disproportionately high infant mortality  
28 rates amongst low-income Caucasian and African-American women;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh/Allegheny County Healthy Start

1 program was the only program of the original special 15 projects  
2 to reduce the infant mortality rate in five years of its  
3 implementation; and

4 WHEREAS, Healthy Start projects encourage individuals and  
5 communities across the nation to participate in events to raise  
6 awareness of infant mortality and such events include: baby  
7 parades, neighborhood health fairs, open houses, poster  
8 contests, the unbirthday parties, baby shoe memorials,  
9 clothesline projects, great baby chefs, memorial gardens and  
10 bake and candy sales; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
12 September 2013, as "Infant Mortality Awareness Month" in  
13 Pennsylvania; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize "Infant  
15 Mortality Awareness Month" to raise awareness of this salient  
16 issue, increase education and ensure women in this Commonwealth  
17 have access to quality prenatal care.