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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1072 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY R. MILLER, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, LUCAS, KIRKLAND,  
KINSEY, MIRABITO, DAVIS, WHITE, LONGIETTI, ROSS, HARHART,  
WATSON, MILLARD, BAKER, DIGIROLAMO, THOMAS, ROCK, GODSHALL,  
COHEN, MURT, O'NEILL, MAJOR, CALTAGIRONE, GRELL, MARSICO,  
MCNEILL, MAHONEY, GINGRICH AND GROVE, OCTOBER 7, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 7, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 20 through 24, 2014, as  
2 "Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs Week" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has begun to reserve the use of secure  
5 detention for only high-risk youth offenders and is using  
6 alternative programming for moderate-risk and low-risk offenders  
7 in order to improve outcomes for youth and ensure protection of  
8 the community; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's 15 secure detention centers and the  
10 numerous alternative programs serving all 67 counties should be  
11 recognized for their ongoing protection of our communities and  
12 the service to youth in their custody or care; and

13 WHEREAS, Secure detention facilities provide 726 beds  
14 Statewide for approximately 15,000 admissions to juvenile  
15 detention in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The existence of these facilities and programs

1 provide a key service to ensure community and individual  
2 protection; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's juvenile detention centers and  
4 alternative programs, adhering to the Balanced and Restorative  
5 Justice Model, contribute to public safety by providing a stable  
6 environment for at-risk youth, both preadjudicated and  
7 adjudicated, providing education and programming and ensuring  
8 sufficient opportunities for growth and development of  
9 Pennsylvania's youth; and

10 WHEREAS, Through the continuing efforts of the juvenile  
11 courts of this Commonwealth, juvenile detention is utilized only  
12 when lesser restrictive environments are not in the best  
13 interest of the youth or community; and

14 WHEREAS, Juvenile detention centers and alternative programs  
15 ensure every child's health and well-being by providing  
16 competency development, self-discipline and stabilization  
17 through comprehensive evaluations, both physical and behavioral  
18 health, as well as community involvement; and

19 WHEREAS, Hundreds of men and women are dedicated to ensuring  
20 the proper care and supervision of youth and are committed to  
21 the protection of communities in this Commonwealth on a daily  
22 basis; and

23 WHEREAS, Youth care workers in this Commonwealth's detention  
24 facilities and alternative programs stand ready on a daily basis  
25 to respond to youth who display an array of unresolved mental  
26 health, behavioral, educational and emotional issues; and

27 WHEREAS, The Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative  
28 Programs Association acts as a primary resource for these  
29 facilities offering education, representation and support for  
30 all of the important services that juvenile detention centers

1 and alternative programs provide for this Commonwealth's youth  
2 and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Juvenile detention centers and alternative programs  
4 in this Commonwealth in coordination with the Juvenile Detention  
5 Centers and Alternative Programs Association merit one week of  
6 recognition for their unending services aimed at protecting our  
7 communities and assisting Pennsylvania's youth; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
9 week of October 20 through 24, 2014, as "Juvenile Detention  
10 Centers and Alternative Programs Week" in Pennsylvania.