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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 82 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY STACK, WOZNIAK, BAKER, TEPLITZ, ERICKSON, KASUNIC,  
FERLO, RAFFERTY, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, WILLIAMS,  
SCHWANK, FARNESE, MENSCH, BREWSTER, FONTANA, FOLMER, HUGHES,  
YUDICHAK, SOLOBAY, PILEGGI, WASHINGTON, HUTCHINSON, SMITH,  
BROWNE, ALLOWAY, BRUBAKER, VULAKOVICH, VOGEL AND COSTA,  
APRIL 9, 2013

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 9, 2013

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2013 as "Autism Awareness Month"  
2 and April 2, 2013, as "World Autism Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability  
4 requiring greater recognition and understanding to ensure that  
5 all individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder are  
6 accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout  
7 their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental  
9 disability resulting in significant impairment of an  
10 individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive  
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal  
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is the result of a  
14 neurological disorder affecting brain function, the complexity  
15 of which few members of the general public understand; and

16 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not

1 been found, individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder  
2 can be assisted in reaching their greatest potential through  
3 accurate early diagnosis, appropriate education and  
4 intervention; and

5 WHEREAS, Nationally about 1 in 88 American children are  
6 living with an autism spectrum disorder according to the Centers  
7 for Disease Control and Prevention; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with an autism spectrum  
9 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few  
10 years as adolescents age into adulthood; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare created the Office  
12 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism  
13 Services to provide expertise and support for all agencies  
14 serving Pennsylvanians living with an autism spectrum disorder;  
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2013  
17 as "Autism Awareness Month" and April 2, 2013, as "World Autism  
18 Day" in Pennsylvania and urge its observance throughout this  
19 Commonwealth for the benefit of all individuals living with an  
20 autism spectrum disorder and their families.