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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 87 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HANNA, COHEN, KIRKLAND, BAKER, YOUNGBLOOD,  
MILLARD, DAVIS, V. BROWN, DONATUCCI, DUSH, SONNEY, HARHART,  
KIM, THOMAS, SCHWEYER, BISHOP, WHEELAND, J. HARRIS, KILLION,  
SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, KAVULICH, C. PARKER, ROSS,  
CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI, DIGIROLAMO, MARSICO, O'NEILL, D. COSTA,  
FARINA, BROWNLEE, DeLUCA, MAHONEY AND GINGRICH,  
FEBRUARY 12, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 12, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 25, 2015, as "Peripartum Cardiomyopathy  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and urging the National  
3 Institutes of Health to recognize "Peripartum Cardiomyopathy  
4 Awareness Day" and to advance research relating to peripartum  
5 cardiomyopathy.

6 WHEREAS, Peripartum cardiomyopathy is a rare disorder in  
7 which a pregnant woman's heart becomes weakened and enlarged  
8 during the final stages of pregnancy or within five months of  
9 giving birth; and

10 WHEREAS, The cause is unknown and patients usually have no  
11 history of heart disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Peripartum cardiomyopathy may occur in childbearing  
13 women of any age, but it is most common after age 30; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms include breathing difficulty when lying  
15 flat, shortness of breath on exertion, swelling, frequent  
16 nighttime urination, cough, excessive weight gain in the final

1 month of pregnancy, heart palpitations, chest pain and enlarged  
2 left heart ventricle; and

3 WHEREAS, The breathing difficulty, often ignored as a normal  
4 symptom in the late stages of pregnancy, increases the risk of  
5 potentially fatal complications; and

6 WHEREAS, While some women remain stable for long periods,  
7 others experience a rapid deterioration in health and show no  
8 improvement with medical therapy; and

9 WHEREAS, These women may require cardiac transplantation or,  
10 in severe cases, may die of heart failure, thromboembolic events  
11 or cardiac arrhythmias; and

12 WHEREAS, For a woman whose heart returns to normal size after  
13 the baby is born, the outcome is positive; and

14 WHEREAS, For a woman whose heart remains enlarged, future  
15 pregnancies may result in heart failure; and

16 WHEREAS, Women should understand the importance of contacting  
17 their health care provider if they are pregnant or have recently  
18 delivered a baby and are experiencing signs of peripartum  
19 cardiomyopathy; and

20 WHEREAS, Awareness is the key to successful outcomes in  
21 peripartum cardiomyopathy; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designate February 25, 2015, as  
24 "Peripartum Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and  
25 urge all residents to recognize that peripartum cardiomyopathy  
26 is a serious threat to women's health; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
28 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the National Institutes of  
29 Health to recognize "Peripartum Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day"  
30 and continue research aimed at obtaining a better understanding

1 of this condition; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania encourage all women to take charge  
4 of their cardiovascular health; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
6 the Director of the National Institutes of Health, 9000  
7 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.