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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 164 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, PAYNE, V. BROWN, FABRIZIO, BAKER,  
DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, BISHOP, RAVENSTAHL, P. DALEY, COHEN,  
FREEMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KIM, KIRKLAND, DAVIS, MILLARD,  
VEREB, McNEILL, BENNINGHOFF, ROSS, BROWNLEE, KINSEY,  
C. PARKER, KAVULICH, PICKETT, CALTAGIRONE, MATZIE, DEASY,  
YOUNGBLOOD, LONGIETTI, MURT, NEUMAN, WHEELAND, O'NEILL,  
THOMAS, D. COSTA, MARSICO, ACOSTA, FARINA, SCHLOSSBERG,  
MAJOR, GINGRICH, SCHWEYER, GOODMAN, GIBBONS, MENTZER, WATSON,  
DeLUCA AND MAHONEY, MARCH 10, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 10, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2015 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and  
2 May 10, 2015, as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every day an estimated 65,000 Pennsylvanians, 1.5  
4 million Americans and 5 million people worldwide struggle with  
5 the debilitating consequences of lupus, a potentially fatal  
6 autoimmune disease that can damage any part of a lupus patient's  
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune  
9 system effectively loses its way, and, instead of warding off  
10 foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria, the immune system  
11 attacks healthy cells, causing inflammation and pain and leading  
12 to permanent damage; and

13 WHEREAS, Lupus has no cure and no known cause, and, despite  
14 the current treatment and available medications, many lupus

1 patients have symptoms that cannot be managed well enough for  
2 patients to lead normal lives, complete their education and  
3 maintain employment; and

4 WHEREAS, Nine out of 10 people with lupus are women, and 80%  
5 of new cases are diagnosed among women between 15 and 44 years  
6 of age, with the majority of new cases seen in women in their  
7 late teens and early 20s; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals of any age or gender can develop lupus;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Lupus was identified as a disease in 1872, but it is  
11 an underrecognized public health problem that attracts rare  
12 attention and funding for research for a cure; and

13 WHEREAS, Lupus is often referred to as "the disease that  
14 fools," due to the patient's unawareness of its presence for  
15 extended periods of time; and

16 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-  
17 State Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, two  
18 nonprofit volunteer health organizations with a history of  
19 service since the early 1970s, provide supportive services to  
20 the victims of lupus, fund medical research into the disease's  
21 causes and possible treatments and educate the public concerning  
22 the realities of lupus; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
24 month of May 2015 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and May 10, 2015,  
25 as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania so that more attention and  
26 awareness may be given to the disease.