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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 207 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, MILLARD, V. BROWN, ROZZI, DiGIROLAMO,  
BISHOP, THOMAS, BAKER, FARINA, CALTAGIRONE, McNEILL,  
HENNESSEY, KOTIK, FRANKEL, BROWNLEE, COHEN, DONATUCCI,  
D. COSTA, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS,  
READSHAW, MAJOR, MARSICO, CUTLER, WARD, O'NEILL, BOBACK,  
DUSH, SONNEY, GRELL, GOODMAN, WATSON, DeLUCA, GINGRICH,  
MAHONEY, BRADFORD AND GILLEN, MARCH 31, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 31, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 18 through 24, 2015, as  
2 "Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a rare,  
4 nonhereditary congenital defect characterized by tangled  
5 arteries and veins that are not connected by capillaries; and

6 WHEREAS, Blood circulating through the abnormal vessels flows  
7 rapidly under high pressure, preventing nutrient-rich arterial  
8 blood from reaching tissue; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Neurological  
10 Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), which is part of the National  
11 Institutes of Health (NIH), approximately 300,000 Americans have  
12 AVMs; and

13 WHEREAS, NINDS reports that each year about 1% of people with  
14 AVMs will die as a result of the AVMs; and

15 WHEREAS, While occurring in fairly equal rates in men and

1 women of all racial or ethnic backgrounds, AVMs are still more  
2 common among males; and

3 WHEREAS, Because most people with AVMs are undiagnosed, it is  
4 imperative that the public become better educated; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the International RadioSurgery  
6 Association, AVMs are the leading cause of stroke in young  
7 people between 10 and 30 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, According to NINDS, most people with AVMs experience  
9 few, if any, significant symptoms, and malformations tend to be  
10 discovered only incidentally, usually during autopsy or  
11 treatment for an unrelated disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, Twelve percent of the affected population, or 36,000  
13 of the estimated 300,000 Americans with AVMs, experience  
14 symptoms that vary greatly in severity, with a small fraction of  
15 this group having debilitating or even life-threatening  
16 symptoms; and

17 WHEREAS, AVMs can cause a wide array of neurological symptoms  
18 such as muscle weakness, partial paralysis, loss of  
19 coordination, difficulties performing tasks which require  
20 planning, dizziness, visual disturbances, inability to control  
21 eye movement and optic disk swelling; and

22 WHEREAS, AVMs can cause problems in using and understanding  
23 language, abnormal sensations such as numbness, tingling or  
24 spontaneous pain, memory loss, mental confusion, hallucinations  
25 or dementia; and

26 WHEREAS, Treatment depends on the type and location of the  
27 AVM and the condition of the patient; and

28 WHEREAS, Although AVM symptoms are often alleviated with  
29 medication, the most effective treatments include surgery,  
30 radiation therapy and embolization; and

1       WHEREAS, Researchers have difficulty classifying the  
2 different kinds of AVMs and developing new treatments; and

3       WHEREAS, NINDS, which is recognized as a leading sponsor of  
4 AVM research, conducts research studies in partnership with  
5 medical institutions such as Columbia University Medical Center;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, The NINDS-Columbia partnership created the  
8 Arteriovenous Study Group, which has been conducting long-term  
9 research on the natural course of AVMs in patients and  
10 improvements in AVM surgeries; and

11       WHEREAS, As research efforts progress, the public is  
12 encouraged to learn all they can about AVM, share it with their  
13 families and friends and provide aid and comfort for traumatized  
14 loved ones who have been touched by this disorder; therefore be  
15 it

16       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
17 week of May 18 through 24, 2015, as "Arteriovenous Malformation  
18 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.