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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 268 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, DiGIROLAMO, DeLUCA, MURT, J. HARRIS, ACOSTA, KINSEY, COHEN, McCARTER, KOTIK, DONATUCCI, VITALI, NEUMAN, BROWNLEE, MILLARD, PICKETT, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, DAVIS, O'BRIEN, HARKINS, THOMAS, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, KIM, DRISCOLL, MACKENZIE, BOBACK, HARHART, READSHAW, ROSS, WHEELAND, SONNEY, DUSH, FARINA, MATZIE, STAATS, MARSICO, MAHONEY, McNEILL, CUTLER, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD, DEAN, KIRKLAND, O'NEILL, WATSON, GOODMAN, MAJOR, SCHREIBER, GINGRICH, GIBBONS, MENTZER, D. COSTA AND FABRIZIO, APRIL 20, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 20, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Mental Health Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall health and  
4 well-being of individuals, families, communities and businesses;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mental health problems can affect individuals of any  
7 race, religion, age or economic status; and

8 WHEREAS, The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
9 Services Administration reports that in 2013 an estimated 43.8  
10 million adults 18 years of age or older in the United States had  
11 a mental illness; and

12 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are serious medical illnesses that  
13 cannot be overcome through willpower and are not related to a  
14 person's character or intelligence; and

1       WHEREAS, People with a mental illness have the same needs and  
2 are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans, but they  
3 experience discrimination in education, employment and housing;  
4 and

5       WHEREAS, Mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the  
6 prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young  
7 adulthood; and

8       WHEREAS, The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
9 Services Administration reports that in 2013 3.3 million youths  
10 12 to 17 years of age received treatment or counseling for  
11 problems with emotions or behavior in a specialty mental health  
12 setting; and

13       WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals  
14 with a mental illness costs public and private employers  
15 billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and  
16 low productivity; and

17       WHEREAS, With proper treatment and support, individuals with  
18 a mental illness can lead full, productive lives; and

19       WHEREAS, Early identification and treatment of a mental  
20 illness, including access to treatment and recovery support  
21 options, which are proven effective, are vitally important;  
22 therefore be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 month of May 2015 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in  
25 Pennsylvania; and be it further

26       RESOLVED, That all citizens, government agencies, public and  
27 private institutions, businesses and schools be urged to  
28 recommit our communities to increasing awareness and  
29 understanding of mental illnesses and the need for appropriate  
30 and accessible services for all people with a mental illness.