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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 349 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY F. KELLER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF,  
BIZZARRO, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO,  
DONATUCCI, DUNBAR, DUSH, FARINA, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GROVE,  
HARHART, A. HARRIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KINSEY,  
LONGIETTI, MENTZER, MILLARD, MURT, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI,  
PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SCHWEYER, SONNEY,  
THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, WARD, MAJOR AND  
SCHLOSSBERG, MAY 28, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 28, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Pennsylvania Cystic Fibrosis, Inc., for its  
2 extraordinary efforts over the past 30 years in raising  
3 awareness of cystic fibrosis, providing support and financial  
4 assistance to affected families and supporting progressive  
5 research for a cure.

6 WHEREAS, Cystic fibrosis (CF) is the most common fatal  
7 genetic disease; and

8 WHEREAS, CF causes severe damage to the lungs and digestive  
9 system; and

10 WHEREAS, Founded on October 2, 1985, Pennsylvania Cystic  
11 Fibrosis, Inc., (PACFI), an independent, nonprofit volunteer  
12 organization, provides services and supports for individuals and  
13 families affected by CF throughout this Commonwealth and funds  
14 some of the nation's most progressive research; and

15 WHEREAS, PACFI's financial assistance provides air  
16 conditioners, portable nebulizers, generators, CF-related

1 equipment, medications, transplant expenses not covered by  
2 insurance, scholarships for individuals with CF who want to  
3 continue their education and educational books about CF for  
4 families; and

5 WHEREAS, PACFI supports clinics at Geisinger Medical Center,  
6 Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Children's Hospital of  
7 Philadelphia and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, PACFI offers advocacy and educational materials for  
10 parents of students with CF who are having problems at school  
11 and assists families by funding various emergency expenses; and

12 WHEREAS, PACFI has supported oral glutathione (GSH) research  
13 in CF since 2004 through the Utah Valley Institute of Cystic  
14 Fibrosis; and

15 WHEREAS, A 2015 study supported by PACFI shows that GSH  
16 significantly improves measures of growth in children and  
17 reduces gut inflammation; and

18 WHEREAS, PACFI received the President's Club Award in 2010  
19 from the University of Minnesota, one of the nation's best CF  
20 care centers, for supporting Dr. Toni Moran's CF-related  
21 diabetes research; and

22 WHEREAS, PACFI has supported CF research at Hahnemann  
23 University, University of Pennsylvania, University of  
24 Pittsburgh, University of Vermont, University of California at  
25 San Francisco, University of Virginia and Michigan State  
26 University; and

27 WHEREAS, Boyds Bears named a special teddy bear in its fall  
28 1997 collection "Burke P. Bear" after Burke Derr, a child who  
29 collected teddy bears and who died from CF on June 17, 1997; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1999, Burke P. Bear was proclaimed the

1 Pennsylvania Ambassador for love, peace, fun and a cure for  
2 cystic fibrosis; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 134 retailers of Boyds Bears in  
4 Pennsylvania, 30 other states and Canada donate \$1 from every  
5 Burke P. Bear sold to PACFI for its Million Dollar Bear  
6 campaign; and

7 WHEREAS, Burke P. Bear has toured 23 countries and all 50  
8 states since 1997 and, in collaboration with Cystic Fibrosis  
9 Worldwide, has helped to create an international awareness of CF  
10 in addition to raising funds; and

11 WHEREAS, PACFI has raised more than \$565,000 for CF research  
12 through its Million Dollar Bear campaign, Burke P. Bear's tour  
13 and donations; and

14 WHEREAS, Burke P. Bear received Certificates of Merit from  
15 the United States House of Representatives, the Massachusetts  
16 State Senate, the City of Lubbock, Texas, and the City of  
17 Auburn, Massachusetts, for his CF work and has been dubbed by a  
18 British publication as the "Globe-trotting Ambassador of Love";  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, PACFI celebrates its 30th anniversary in October  
21 2015; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize PACFI  
23 for its extraordinary efforts over the past 30 years in raising  
24 awareness of cystic fibrosis, providing support and financial  
25 assistance to affected families and supporting progressive  
26 research for a cure.