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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. **395** Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, CUTLER, READSHAW, BAKER, KILLION,  
KIRKLAND, KRIEGER, DIGIROLAMO, CAUSER, DUSH, SONNEY, MURT,  
HENNESSEY, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, MATZIE, METZGAR, MACKENZIE,  
MARSICO, HEFFLEY, BOBACK, JOZWIAK, GROVE, WHEELAND, MILLARD,  
FARINA, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, MAJOR,  
ROSS, MAHONEY, MILNE, GOODMAN AND PAYNE, JUNE 16, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 16, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 22 through 26, 2015, as "Charcot-  
2 Marie-Tooth Association Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) is the most common  
4 inherited peripheral neuropathy disorder, estimated to affect  
5 one in every 2,500 individuals, or more than 2.8 million  
6 individuals worldwide, without regard to age, gender or  
7 ethnicity; and

8 WHEREAS, CMT was identified in 1886 by three physicians,  
9 Jean-Martin Charcot, Pierre Marie and Howard Henry Tooth; and

10 WHEREAS, CMT is a progressive disorder, which slowly damages  
11 the nerve cells leading to an individual's extremities; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no way to predict how far or how fast the  
13 disease will progress, and the severity varies widely from  
14 individual to individual, with some individuals able to go about  
15 their lives with only moderate difficulty and other individuals

1 requiring greater assistance; and

2 WHEREAS, In some cases, CMT can even be fatal; and

3 WHEREAS, While there is no cure for CMT, physical therapy  
4 improves the muscle strength and endurance of individuals with  
5 CMT; and

6 WHEREAS, The Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA) in  
7 Chester has educated and served this Commonwealth for more than  
8 25 years; and

9 WHEREAS, CMTA is leading the charge for educational programs  
10 dedicated to training doctors at medical colleges in this  
11 Commonwealth to identify and treat CMT symptoms; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2008, CMTA launched the Strategy to Accelerate  
13 Research (STAR), a strategic research program, to maximize  
14 breakthroughs in genetics and dramatically speed up the pace of  
15 CMT research; and

16 WHEREAS, The opportunities associated with STAR stem from the  
17 fact that the causes of CMT have been pinpointed, leading to the  
18 identification of 73 specific gene defects; and

19 WHEREAS, These genetic mutations can be replicated in  
20 laboratory models and grown as tissue cultures which opens an  
21 extraordinary window of opportunity to develop treatments and  
22 cures for CMT in the immediate and foreseeable future; therefore  
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
25 week of June 22 through 26, 2015, as "Charcot-Marie-Tooth  
26 Association Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.