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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 462 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, D. COSTA, COHEN, HENNESSEY, KIM,  
SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, GOODMAN, DeLUCA, BOBACK, LONGIETTI,  
MILLARD, FARINA, HARHART, SCHWEYER, MARSICO, BISHOP,  
CALTAGIRONE, MURT, C. PARKER, ROSS, WHEELAND, READSHAW,  
MAJOR, DONATUCCI, MAHONEY, McCARTER, GILLEN, GIBBONS, ROZZI  
AND KINSEY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 9, 2015, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania to inform and bring greater awareness of  
3 Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated  
4 with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) to the general public  
5 and medical community.

6 WHEREAS, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders  
7 Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) is a term used  
8 to describe a subset of children who have obsessive-compulsive  
9 disorder (OCD) and/or tic disorder symptoms following a  
10 streptococcal infection, such as strep throat; and

11 WHEREAS, Children experience a sudden and dramatic onset of  
12 symptoms that include motor or vocal tics and other personality  
13 and behavioral changes such as ADHD symptoms, separation  
14 anxiety, mood changes, aggression and irritability, eating  
15 disorders, sleep disturbance, enuresis, and deterioration in  
16 motor and cognitive abilities; and

17 WHEREAS, Children with PANDAS exhibit an episodic course of

1 symptoms, which involve a sudden onset or worsening of symptoms,  
2 followed by a slow and gradual improvement; and

3 WHEREAS, The exact cause of this disorder is unknown, but  
4 researchers are pursuing a theory that the antibodies produced  
5 during a streptococcal infection mistakenly attack a part of the  
6 brain called the basal ganglia, which is responsible for  
7 movement and behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, PANDAS is often misdiagnosed and mistreated due to  
9 limited knowledge and awareness of the disorder among the  
10 general public and medical community; and

11 WHEREAS, There are currently no approved lab tests or  
12 consensus on the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS, therefore  
13 clinicians must use clinical diagnostic criteria and subjective  
14 judgment; and

15 WHEREAS, Treatment options for children suffering from PANDAS  
16 are the same for the standard treatment of OCD and tic  
17 disorders, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and anti-  
18 obsessional medications, but antibiotics and intravenous  
19 immunoglobulin may also be used; and

20 WHEREAS, The PANDAS Network, a nonprofit organization that  
21 raises awareness of PANDAS, estimates that as many as 1 in 200  
22 children have PANDAS in the United States, although the true  
23 prevalence of the disorder is unknown; and

24 WHEREAS, Researchers at the National Institute of Mental  
25 Health are currently conducting research on the cause of the  
26 disorder and more effective treatment for children, but PANDAS  
27 remains the subject of much debate and controversy; and

28 WHEREAS, It is evident that greater awareness of PANDAS is  
29 necessary in the medical community in order to encourage  
30 research on this life-altering disorder and more must be done to

1 increase awareness activities at the national, State and local  
2 levels; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October  
4 9, 2015, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend parents,  
7 advocacy organizations and health professionals dedicated to  
8 improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with PANDAS in  
9 their local communities.