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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 499 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SAYLOR, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,  
COHEN, D. COSTA, DEASY, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, DUSH, EVERETT,  
FARINA, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GREINER, GROVE, HARHART, HARKINS,  
HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KIM,  
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR,  
MARSHALL, MARSICO, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL,  
PASHINSKI, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, REGAN, ROSS,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON,  
WHEELAND AND GILLEN, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 13 through 19, 2015, as "Arts  
2 in Education Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Arts education comprises a rich array of  
4 disciplines, including dance, media arts, music, theater, visual  
5 arts and similar areas of study; and

6 WHEREAS, Arts education is a core academic component and an  
7 essential element of a complete and well-rounded education for  
8 all students; and

9 WHEREAS, Arts education enables students to develop critical  
10 thinking and problem-solving skills, imagination, creativity,  
11 discipline, collaboration, cross-cultural understanding and  
12 alternate ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas,  
13 all of which support success across the curriculum; and

14 WHEREAS, Arts education contributes to increased attendance

1 and graduation rates, elevates academic achievement and prepares  
2 students for college, a career and citizenship readiness; and

3 WHEREAS, Arts education contributes to personal growth  
4 outside the classroom, including an increase in a student's  
5 likelihood to participate in civic life, volunteerism, altruism  
6 and community engagement; and

7 WHEREAS, To succeed in today's economy, students must  
8 masterfully develop traits that business leaders demand in a  
9 21st century workforce, such as communicating through words,  
10 images, sounds and movement; and

11 WHEREAS, There is widespread concern that high-stakes  
12 testing, accountability measures for educators and reduced  
13 funding are leading to the reduction of access to arts education  
14 for students in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, The arts are an integral part of life in the United  
16 States and this Commonwealth, as well as an integral part of a  
17 complete educational experience that contributes to the vibrancy  
18 and vitality of communities and the nation; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
20 week of September 13 through 19, 2015, as "Arts in Education  
21 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all  
23 employees and families throughout this Commonwealth to observe  
24 "Arts in Education Week" with appropriate activities.