

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 578 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, RAVENSTAHL, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,
V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, P. DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH,
EVERETT, HARHART, A. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-
HILL, IRVIN, KIM, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE,
MILLARD, NEILSON, READSHAW, ROZZI, SAINATO, SCHWEYER, SONNEY,
THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND, GIBBONS, D. PARKER, GROVE,
WARD AND ROSS, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 9, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2015 as "Carbon Monoxide
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is produced by furnaces, common
4 household appliances, vehicles, generators, fireplaces and other
5 systems that are powered by the burning of fuel, including
6 natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil and wood; and

7 WHEREAS, November is the best time to raise awareness for
8 carbon monoxide poisoning as the threat of exposure increases as
9 people stay indoors and burn more fuel to heat their homes
10 during the winter months; and

11 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as "the silent killer"
12 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas
13 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

14 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in
accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
determined that carbon monoxide claims approximately 50 lives
each year and that carbon monoxide exposure sends more than
20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic has determined that 51% of all
carbon monoxide poisoning cases reported involve children six
years of age and younger; and

WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission has
determined that older adults more frequently have preexisting
health conditions that affect the heart, lungs and circulatory
system, and the presence of one or more of these conditions
lowers a victim's tolerance and increases the risk of fatal
carbon monoxide exposure; and

WHEREAS, A January 2006 article in the Journal of the
American Medical Association showed that, for individuals who
were involved in carbon monoxide poisoning and survived, there
was a three-fold increase in coronary artery disease seven years
later when compared with patients who were not poisoned; and

WHEREAS, The Carbon Monoxide Health and Safety Association
has determined that the combined medical cost of carbon monoxide
accidents, lost productivity and lost wages amounts to \$8.8
billion per year; and

WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide
poisonings are critical to protecting residents of Pennsylvania
from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the
home; and

WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined to be
the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide, and there is a

1 dramatic correlation between carbon monoxide alarm ordinances in
2 cities and lower death rates from carbon monoxide; therefore be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 month of November 2015 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in
6 Pennsylvania.