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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 801 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, FARINA, TOOHL, MURT, COHEN, SCHLOSSBERG,  
READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, MAHONEY, WHEELAND, MILLARD,  
BAKER, VEREB, PAYNE, BOBACK, KIRKLAND, HARHAI, LONGIETTI,  
MARSICO, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, WARD, ROZZI, SAYLOR, PHILLIPS-  
HILL AND WATSON, APRIL 8, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 8, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 17 through 23, 2016, as  
2 "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Family centers are early childhood, parent education  
4 and family support programs serving families throughout  
5 pregnancy until children enter school; and

6 WHEREAS, Family centers promote the protective factors that  
7 keep families strong by increasing parent knowledge and  
8 practices, providing early detection of developmental delays and  
9 health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, meeting  
10 concrete needs, increasing children's school readiness and  
11 school success, connecting families with each other and  
12 increasing family involvement and leadership in the community;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, All young children and their families deserve the  
15 same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic,  
16 geographic or economic considerations; and

1       WHEREAS, Family center services are tailored to the resources  
2 and needs of the communities served; and

3       WHEREAS, Family centers serve 5,164 families with 7,103  
4 children enrolled in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting  
5 program and hundreds more families receive other supportive  
6 services; and

7       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth invests more than \$3 million in  
8 family centers throughout this Commonwealth; and

9       WHEREAS, More than 60% of Pennsylvania's population lives in  
10 the 28 counties served by family centers in urban, rural and  
11 suburban communities; and

12       WHEREAS, Approximately 71% of the families served are  
13 considered high risk due to low educational attainment, poverty  
14 or disability; and

15       WHEREAS, Established and emerging research is the foundation  
16 of parent education and family support curricula, training,  
17 materials and services; and

18       WHEREAS, PAT is the evidence-based program used by all  
19 Pennsylvania family centers and PAT's vision is that all  
20 children will learn, grow and develop to reach their full  
21 potential; and

22       WHEREAS, PAT's mission is to provide the information, support  
23 and encouragement parents need to help children develop  
24 optimally during the crucial early years of life; and

25       WHEREAS, Family centers affirm the PAT value that parents are  
26 children's first and most influential teachers, and the early  
27 years of life are critical for optimal development and provide  
28 the foundation for success in school and in life; and

29       WHEREAS, PAT is federally recognized as an evidence-based  
30 model program because it meets rigorous standards for

1 effectiveness; and

2 WHEREAS, Family centers, through their strength-based work  
3 with families, including the use of the PAT model, support  
4 families in achieving economic stability, healthy children in  
5 healthy homes and school readiness of children; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 week of April 17 through 23, 2016, as "Pennsylvania Family  
8 Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.