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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1035 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, BAKER, ROZZI,  
LONGIETTI, KIRKLAND, TOOIL, HELM, CALTAGIRONE, BIZZARRO,  
READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, SONNEY, DUSH, MILLARD,  
WATSON, MARSICO, KINSEY, D. COSTA, MAHONEY, MURT, M. DALEY,  
ROSS, COHEN, MAJOR, GINGRICH, SCHWEYER, KIM, DAVIS, GILLEN  
AND KORTZ, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 16 through 22, 2016, as  
2 "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries affect a complex network of  
4 nerves that control the muscles of the shoulder, arm, elbow,  
5 wrist, hand and finger and can result in full to partial  
6 paralysis of one or both arms; and

7 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries often occur during the  
8 birthing process; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 1 or 2 out of every 1,000 newborns are  
10 affected by brachial plexus injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries may be prevented by  
12 carefully monitoring pregnant women that exhibit any or all of  
13 the documented risk factors associated with shoulder dystocia,  
14 the most common cause of injury, and utilizing recommended  
15 maneuvers during delivery; and

1 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries may also occur as a result  
2 of trauma such as automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents,  
3 sports injuries, animal bites, gunshot or puncture wounds,  
4 medical procedures or surgeries or viral diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals affected by brachial plexus injuries  
6 experience pain in muscles, joints and ligaments, weakness,  
7 atrophy, numbness of the affected limb and sometimes,  
8 respiratory difficulties; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals affected by brachial plexus injuries can  
10 experience secondary issues, including low tone or hypotonia,  
11 developmental delays, speech dysfunction, chronic ear infections  
12 of the affected side, possible hearing loss, nail bed  
13 dysfunction, weakness of the foot on the affected side, postural  
14 issues that could lead to scoliosis and other secondary health  
15 issues; and

16 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries present unique challenges  
17 for all those affected, including the challenges related to only  
18 having the full use of one arm; and

19 WHEREAS, Those affected by brachial plexus injuries often  
20 experience delayed diagnosis and lack of access to information  
21 related to current and ground-breaking treatment options; and

22 WHEREAS, Early intervention by specialized physicians and  
23 experienced occupational and physical therapists is essential  
24 for optimum functional improvement; and

25 WHEREAS, The brachial plexus injury community and the United  
26 Brachial Plexus Network Awareness Committee are promoting  
27 "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" to inform and educate  
28 the general public, the medical community and individuals with  
29 brachial plexus injuries and their families; and

30 WHEREAS, Increased understanding and awareness of brachial

1 plexus injuries ensures a better future for people affected;

2 therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

4 week of October 16 through 22, 2016, as "Brachial Plexus Injury

5 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.