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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 19 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, BAKER, HAYWOOD, GREENLEAF, WOZNIAK,  
VULAKOVICH, FONTANA, TEPLITZ, HUTCHINSON, ALLOWAY, SCHWANK,  
HUGHES, COSTA, PILEGGI, KITCHEN, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, BLAKE,  
SMITH AND RAFFERTY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 7 through 14, 2015, as "Congenital Heart  
2 Defect Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week is an annual  
4 awareness effort to help educate the public about congenital  
5 heart defects; and

6 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the most common birth  
7 defect, annually affecting approximately one in every 125 babies  
8 in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Designating Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week  
10 in this Commonwealth promotes greater public awareness about  
11 these defects; and

12 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the leading cause of  
13 birth defect-related deaths worldwide; and

14 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects kill twice as many children  
15 as childhood cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, Newborn screening for congenital heart defects  
17 involves a simple test called pulse oximetry; and

1       WHEREAS, Pulse oximetry screening is the most effective way  
2 to detect critical congenital heart defects; and

3       WHEREAS, Each year, about 1,200 additional newborns with a  
4 critical congenital heart defect could be identified using pulse  
5 oximetry newborn screening; and

6       WHEREAS, Babies with a critical congenital heart defect need  
7 surgery or other procedures in the first year of life; and

8       WHEREAS, The costs of critical congenital heart defect  
9 screening is about \$5 to \$14 for each newborn baby screened; and

10       WHEREAS, There is a need for awareness and funding for  
11 congenital heart defects; therefore be it

12       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 7  
13 through 14, 2015, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" in  
14 Pennsylvania.