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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 68 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY COSTA, KITCHEN, HAYWOOD, BLAKE, WOZNIAK, SCAVELLO,  
TEPLITZ, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, GREENLEAF,  
BAKER, ALLOWAY AND SMITH, APRIL 14, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 14, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 19 through 25, 2015, as  
2 "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Family Centers are early childhood,  
4 parent education and family support programs serving families  
5 throughout 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

17 WHEREAS, Family center services are tailored to the resources

1 and needs of the communities served; and

2 WHEREAS, Family centers serve 4,733 families with 6,843  
3 children enrolled in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting  
4 program and hundreds more families with supportive services; and

5 WHEREAS, PAT is the evidence-based program used by all  
6 Pennsylvania Family Centers; and

7 WHEREAS, PAT's vision is that all children will learn, grow  
8 and develop to reach their full potential and

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

12 WHEREAS, Family centers affirm PAT's position that parents  
13 are children's first and most influential teachers, and the  
14 early years of life are critical for optimal development and  
15 provide the foundation for success in school and life; and

16 WHEREAS, PAT is federally recognized as an evidence-based  
17 model program because it meets rigorous standards for  
18 effectiveness; and

19 WHEREAS, Family centers support families in achieving  
20 economic stability, healthy children in healthy homes and school  
21 readiness of children through strength-based work with families,  
22 including the use of the PAT's model; and

23 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth invests more than \$3 million in  
24 family centers; and

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

28 WHEREAS, Sixty-five percent of the families served are  
29 considered high risk due to low educational attainment, poverty  
30 or disability; and

1       WHEREAS, Established and emerging research should be the  
2 foundation of parent education and family support curricula,  
3 training, materials and services; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of April 19  
5 through 25, 2015, as "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week"  
6 in Pennsylvania.