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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 319 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, TOOIL, VAZQUEZ, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN,  
J. HARRIS, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, O'NEILL, BOBACK, DEAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, CORBIN, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, ROZZI,  
READSHAW, WARD, BIZZARRO, SOLOMON, MARSICO, GROVE, KIRKLAND,  
KINSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON AND DEASY,  
MAY 8, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 8, 2017

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2017 as "National Drug Court Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The expansion of drug courts has been a key reform  
4 in the fight against drug abuse and criminality in many  
5 jurisdictions; and

6 WHEREAS, Underlying chronic behaviors are the focus of these  
7 specialized courts; and

8 WHEREAS, Judges work with a community team to develop a case  
9 plan that includes regular court appearances, treatment sessions  
10 and monitoring of an offender's compliance and aftercare; and

11 WHEREAS, Volunteer mentors may provide additional support for  
12 court-involved individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, Graduated sanctions, incentives, evidence-based  
14 treatment, education and training benefits and related services  
15 are applied as needed; and

1 WHEREAS, "National Drug Court Month" highlights the  
2 collective impact of adult drug courts, juvenile drug courts,  
3 family dependency treatment courts, tribal healing to wellness  
4 courts, DWI/DUI courts and Veterans' Treatment Courts; and

5 WHEREAS, These courts have effectively reduced drug abuse,  
6 crime and recidivism while significantly improving treatment  
7 outcomes and saving taxpayer money; and

8 WHEREAS, These courts have facilitated community partnerships  
9 to broadly enhance criminal justice, public safety and public  
10 health; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Justice, 84%  
12 of drug court graduates have not been rearrested or charged with  
13 a serious crime in the first year after their graduation; and

14 WHEREAS, The Urban Institute cites a report from the National  
15 Association of Drug Court Professionals that shows drug courts  
16 provide \$2.21 in benefits, and up to \$3.36 in benefits among  
17 expanded programs, for every \$1 invested; and

18 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives applaud the commitment  
19 and coordination among drug court defendants, judges, case  
20 management professionals and volunteers in the pursuit of  
21 comprehensive intervention, treatment completion, family  
22 reunification and sustained recovery; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
24 month of May 2017 as "National Drug Court Month" in  
25 Pennsylvania.