THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 367   Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BIZZARRO, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DiGIROLAMO,
  DRISCOLL, DUSH, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,
  MACKENZIE, McNEILL, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, NEILSON, READSHAW,
  SCHWEYER, SONNEY, WARREN, WATSON AND ROZZI, MAY 31, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
  MAY 31, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2017, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation
2   Day" in Pennsylvania.

3   WHEREAS, A behavior analyst is a mental health professional

4 who, in the United States, holds a master's degree or higher in

5 behavior analysis, psychology or education; and

6   WHEREAS, Behavior analysts must hold master's-level Board

7 Certified Behavior Analyst certification or meet similar

8 education standards; and

9   WHEREAS, Behavior analysis is a science, distinct from

10 psychology, in which processes are systematically applied to

11 improve socially significant behavior to a meaningful degree;

12 and

13   WHEREAS, The practice of applied behavior analysis ranges

14 from treatment of individuals with autism and developmental

15 disabilities to behavioral coaching and behavioral

16 psychotherapy; and

1   WHEREAS, Behavior analysts constantly assess methods to

2 modify behaviors and experiment with new techniques in a

3 constantly evolving field; and

4   WHEREAS, Dr. Ole Ivar Lovaas, a Norwegian American who earned

5 a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of

6 Washington in 1958, has investigated various therapy techniques

7 rooted in behavior analysis in the treatment of autistic

8 children; and

9   WHEREAS, Dr. Lovaas' work has transformed the treatment of

10 autistic individuals, incontrovertibly establishing the practice

11 of applied behavior analysis as a scientifically validated

12 therapy for a variety of behavioral disorders; and

13   WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the United

14 States Surgeon General have endorsed the use of behavior

15 analysis in the treatment of autism; and

16   WHEREAS, Behavior analysis is widely recognized as the most

17 effective treatment for children with autism spectrum disorder

18 and the only treatment shown to lead to significant, lasting

19 improvements in the lives of individuals with autism; and

20   WHEREAS, Behavior analysts primarily work one-on-one with

21 individuals with autism and may have a high caseload with

22 multiple patient appointments each day; and

23   WHEREAS, Some behavior analysts take on supervisory roles,

24 advising other health care providers or caregivers on behavior

25 intervention plans or overseeing assistant behavior analysts and

26 registered behavior technicians who are working directly with

27 patients; and

28   WHEREAS, "Behavior Analyst Appreciation Day" is an

29 opportunity to recognize the important work and professional

30 commitment of behavior analysts; therefore be it

1   RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June

2 12, 2017, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation Day" in

3 Pennsylvania.