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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 618 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, DEAN, HENNESSEY, MURT, WARD, BOBACK,  
NEILSON, KINSEY, MILLARD, DiGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI, JAMES,  
THOMAS, McCARTER, KIRKLAND, DAVIS, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW,  
MARSICO, DeLUCA AND SCHLOSSBERG, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
NOVEMBER 20, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 20, 2017, as "Kinship Caregiver Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Families are central to the well-being of our  
4 communities, Pennsylvania and the nation as a whole, with  
5 children being the future of our society; and

6 WHEREAS, Childrearing has traditionally been the  
7 responsibility of biological parents with support from other  
8 family members and the community; and

9 WHEREAS, Biological parents are not always able to raise  
10 their children for numerous reasons, including illness,  
11 substance abuse issues, incarceration, financial instability and  
12 death; and

13 WHEREAS, The opioid epidemic in particular has torn apart  
14 thousands of Pennsylvania's families, leaving many children  
15 without parents who can care for them and straining the State's  
16 ability to protect those children; and

1       WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of children entering the  
2 foster care system are placed there because of parental drug  
3 abuse; and

4       WHEREAS, Grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and  
5 other kin are stepping forward in ever-increasing numbers to  
6 assume full-time parental responsibility for children whose  
7 parents are unable or unwilling to care for them; and

8       WHEREAS, Kinship care may be an informal, private arrangement  
9 or involve child welfare services; and

10       WHEREAS, Kinship care can keep children out of the foster  
11 care system and in their own communities, putting less strain on  
12 an overloaded system, providing savings to the State and  
13 potentially leading to better outcomes for children; and

14       WHEREAS, Studies have shown that kinship care leads to more  
15 permanent placements and fewer social and behavioral issues for  
16 children than foster care in general; and

17       WHEREAS, More than 100,000 children in Pennsylvania live with  
18 a relative with no biological parent present; and

19       WHEREAS, These relative-headed families face enormous  
20 challenges ensuring that the children in their care experience  
21 structure, accountability, encouragement, affection, safety and  
22 age-appropriate expectations; and

23       WHEREAS, As a result of this commitment, the home provided  
24 for many of these children becomes their "forever" home and  
25 their relatives become moms and dads in the truest sense; and

26       WHEREAS, Numerous resources, including grandfamilies.org,  
27 Generations United, the National Kinship Alliance for Children  
28 and the United States Children's Bureau within the United States  
29 Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for  
30 Children and Families, among others, provide information and

1 support to kinship caregivers in Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, November 20 is recognized as "Universal Children's  
3 Day," intended to promote awareness of children's rights and the  
4 welfare of children around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, On "Universal Children's Day" we take time to spread  
6 awareness and honor the commitment of kinship caregivers;  
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
9 November 20, 2017, as "Kinship Caregiver Day" in Pennsylvania.