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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 822 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, READSHAW, NEILSON, DAY, BIZZARRO, CHARLTON,  
R. BROWN, VAZQUEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, BURNS, KINSEY,  
BARRAR, MURT, MILLARD, WARREN, YOUNGBLOOD, SONNEY, DUSH,  
PASHINSKI, BOBACK, MACKENZIE, BARBIN, CALTAGIRONE,  
DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, MARSICO, B. MILLER, WATSON, SCHWEYER,  
WARD, GILLEN, BRADFORD AND M. QUINN, APRIL 10, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 10, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2018 as "Crohn's Disease and  
2 Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are  
4 inflammatory bowel diseases that cause chronic inflammation and  
5 damage in the gastrointestinal tract and impair the ability of  
6 the affected organs to function properly; and

7 WHEREAS, The most common symptoms of these two diseases are  
8 persistent diarrhea, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, weight  
9 loss and fatigue; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals with inflammatory bowel disease often go  
11 through periods of remission with few or no symptoms,  
12 alternating with periods of flare-ups when the disease is active  
13 and presenting symptoms; and

14 WHEREAS, The exact cause of these diseases is not entirely  
15 understood, but it is known to involve a complex interaction

1 between genes, the immune system and environmental factors; and

2 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect as  
3 many as 1.6 million Americans, including 80,000 children; and

4 WHEREAS, These diseases are most often diagnosed in  
5 adolescence and early adulthood, between the ages of 15 and 35;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Cases of inflammatory bowel diseases are on the rise  
8 in the United States, with nearly 70,000 people diagnosed each  
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, These chronic conditions can significantly affect a  
11 patient's quality of life; and

12 WHEREAS, The annual financial burden of inflammatory bowel  
13 diseases in the United States is estimated to be between \$14.6  
14 billion and \$31.6 billion; and

15 WHEREAS, There is no cure for Crohn's disease or ulcerative  
16 colitis, only medications and treatments that aim to suppress  
17 inflammation, achieve and maintain remission and improve overall  
18 quality of life; and

19 WHEREAS, Even with treatment, up to one third of people with  
20 ulcerative colitis will require surgery after 30 years with the  
21 disease and approximately 70% of people with Crohn's disease  
22 eventually require surgery; and

23 WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
24 sponsors cutting-edge research to find a cure and works  
25 diligently to improve the quality of life of children and adults  
26 affected by these diseases through a wide range of educational  
27 programs and support services for both patients and health care  
28 professionals; and

29 WHEREAS, "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness  
30 Month" increases public awareness of these diseases,

1 acknowledges the medical and financial impact these diseases  
2 have on affected individuals and their families and promotes  
3 initiatives to improve treatments and find a cure for Crohn's  
4 disease and ulcerative colitis; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
6 month of May 2018 as "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis  
7 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and acknowledge those suffering  
8 from these diseases and their desire for a cure.