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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 907 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, BARRAR, BOBACK, R. BROWN, BURNS,  
CALTAGIRONE, CONKLIN, P. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DEAN,  
DeLUCA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, GILLEN,  
GOODMAN, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KIRKLAND,  
KRUEGER-BRANEKY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MADDEN, MARSICO,  
MATZIE, McCLINTON, J. McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON,  
O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, M. QUINN, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, RYAN,  
SAMUELSON, SCHWEYER, SNYDER, SONNEY, STAATS, STURLA, TOOHL,  
WARD AND WARREN, MAY 8, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 8, 2018

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2018 as "Mental Health Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall well-being  
4 of individuals, families, communities and businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are biologically based brain  
6 disorders that cannot be overcome through willpower and are not  
7 related to an individual's character or intelligence; and

8 WHEREAS, Mental health issues can affect individuals of any  
9 race, religion, economic status or age; and

10 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the  
11 prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young  
12 adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness have the same needs  
14 and are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness experience discrimination in education, employment and housing; and

WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals with mental illness costs public and private employers billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and low productivity; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, an estimated 3.1 million adolescents 12 to 17 years of age experienced a major depressive episode (MDE); and

WHEREAS, Individuals are classified as having an MDE if they experience a depressed mood or loss of interest in daily activities and have additional symptoms, including problems with sleep, eating, energy, concentration or self-worth over a certain period of time; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, an estimated 44.7 million adults in the United States had a mental illness that included a mental, behavioral or emotional disorder; and

WHEREAS, Proper identification and treatment of mental illnesses, including support, are proven to be effective and are vitally important to assist individuals in leading full, productive lives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of May 2018 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, schools and residents of this Commonwealth strive to increase awareness and understanding of mental illnesses and the need for appropriate and accessible services for individuals with mental illness throughout the communities of this Commonwealth.