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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 937 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, TOOIL, VITALI,  
DUSH, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, RYAN, NEILSON, MILLARD,  
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, KAUFFMAN, WATSON AND KINSEY,  
MAY 23, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 23, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 3 through 9, 2018, as "Parental  
2 Alienation and Hostile Aggressive Parenting Awareness Week"  
3 in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, "Parental Alienation and Hostile Aggressive  
5 Parenting Awareness Week" is a Statewide effort aimed at raising  
6 awareness about the adverse effects that parental alienation  
7 (PA) and hostile aggressive parenting (HAP) have on the  
8 psychological and emotional well-being of children; and

9 WHEREAS, Parental alienation is the process and result of  
10 psychological manipulation of a child into showing unwarranted  
11 fear, disrespect or hostility toward a targeted parent or other  
12 family member; and

13 WHEREAS, A parent may engage in PA by using negative  
14 comments, blame and false accusations against the other parent  
15 or thwarting the other parent's attempts to have parenting time  
16 in order to coerce the child into severing contact; and

17 WHEREAS, The effects of PA on children can include low self-

1 esteem, lack of trust, depression and addiction; and

2 WHEREAS, By some estimates, PA occurs in 11% to 15% of all  
3 divorces involving children and up to 1% of children and  
4 adolescents in North America experience PA; and

5 WHEREAS, PA is an often overlooked form of child abuse and is  
6 deserving of an appropriate child protection response; and

7 WHEREAS, Parental alienation syndrome (PAS) is a  
8 psychological condition most often observed in children affected  
9 by high-conflict divorce or separation or custody modifications  
10 and is the result of exposure to hostile aggressive parenting;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, HAP is a general pattern of behavior that creates  
13 undue difficulties or interference in the relationship between a  
14 child and the other parent; and

15 WHEREAS, HAP is not only limited to parents, but can also be  
16 perpetrated by grandparents, extended family members or any  
17 other person or agency with some control or influence over a  
18 child; and

19 WHEREAS, A child reserves the right to be a part of each  
20 parent's life as each parent plays an integral role in a child's  
21 life; and

22 WHEREAS, Children should not be used as either weapons or  
23 pawns; and

24 WHEREAS, Children should be provided with the ability to love  
25 both parents and be able to receive the love of both parents in  
26 return; and

27 WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts is  
28 urged to offer nationally certified educational information  
29 about the effects of PA and HAP as part of its Judicial  
30 Education curriculum to be readily accessed by this

1 Commonwealth's family court judges; and

2 WHEREAS, Raising awareness about PA and HAP gives judges,  
3 lawyers, police officers, doctors, policymakers and the general  
4 public the tools to address this issue and help end the abuse of  
5 innocent children caught in the crossfire of spousal conflict;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In December 2005, the first "Parental Alienation and  
8 Hostile Aggressive Parenting Awareness Day" was launched by  
9 Sarvy Emo, a friend of a parent who was suffering the effects of  
10 PA and HAP; and

11 WHEREAS, In August 2006, Sarvy Emo, Robin Denison and Neil  
12 Vercoe established the Parental Alienation Awareness  
13 Organization for the purpose of bringing education and awareness  
14 to the issues of PA and HAP; and

15 WHEREAS, April 25, 2018, marked the 13th annual observance of  
16 "Parental Alienation and Hostile Aggressive Parenting Awareness  
17 Day," which was recognized nationally and within this  
18 Commonwealth; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
20 week of June 3 through 9, 2018, as "Parental Alienation and  
21 Hostile Aggressive Parenting Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania;  
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
24 Pennsylvanians to learn more about the concept and the adverse  
25 effects of parental alienation and hostile aggressive parenting.