

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1033 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, HENNESSEY,  
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YOUNGBLOOD, ROTHMAN, M. QUINN, MURT, STURLA, MARSICO AND  
DALEY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 7 through 13, 2018, as  
2 "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Awareness Week" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Equally affecting individuals from all races,  
5 ethnicities and backgrounds, obsessive compulsive disorder is a  
6 mental illness involving a continuing cycle of obsessions and  
7 compulsions; and

8 WHEREAS, Obsessions are unwanted, recurring and intrusive  
9 thoughts that typically elicit distressing feelings; and

10 WHEREAS, Compulsions are excessive and repetitive behaviors  
11 undertaken to mitigate distresses that result from obsessions;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that genetic predisposition and  
14 an inability for certain brain cells to communicate with one  
15 another contribute to obsessive compulsive disorder, though a  
16 precise cause of the disorder is unknown; and

1        WHEREAS, Licensed mental health professionals diagnose  
2 obsessive compulsive disorder when an individual experiences  
3 both obsessions and compulsions that interfere with other  
4 important life activities; and

5        WHEREAS, Obsessive compulsive disorder can begin at any age,  
6 but typically first appears between 10 and 12 years of age, in  
7 the late teenage years or early adulthood; and

8        WHEREAS, More than 3 million adults in the United States,  
9 approximately 1.2% of the adult population, are currently  
10 diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder; and

11        WHEREAS, An estimated 500,000 children in the United States  
12 have obsessive compulsive disorder; and

13        WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3% of American citizens will  
14 struggle with obsessive compulsive disorder at some point in  
15 their lifetime; and

16        WHEREAS, Individuals with obsessive compulsive disorder  
17 grapple with the disorder in varying degrees of severity with  
18 50.6% experiencing severe impairment, 34.8% experiencing  
19 moderate impairment and 14.6% experiencing mild impairment; and

20        WHEREAS, An average of 14 to 17 years elapse between the time  
21 someone begins experiencing symptoms of obsessive compulsive  
22 disorder until the time they receive appropriate treatment; and

23        WHEREAS, The majority of individuals suffering from obsessive  
24 compulsive disorder benefit from a combination of therapy and  
25 medicine; and

26        WHEREAS, First recognized in 2009, "Obsessive Compulsive  
27 Disorder Awareness Week" occurs in the second week of October  
28 each year and is an international effort to increase awareness  
29 and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder; and

30        WHEREAS, Through raising awareness, "Obsessive Compulsive

1   Disorder Awareness Week" seeks to help individuals receive  
2   appropriate and effective treatment for the disorder; therefore  
3   be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
5   week of October 7 through 13, 2018, as "Obsessive Compulsive  
6   Disorder Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives raise awareness  
8   and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder while  
9   acknowledging the importance of timely access to effective  
10   treatment.