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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 72 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, LANGERHOLC, BLAKE, RESCHENTHALER,  
BREWSTER, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, MARTIN AND BROWNE,  
MARCH 29, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 29, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2017 as "Autism Awareness Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability  
4 requiring greater recognition and understanding to ensure that  
5 all individuals living with autism spectrum disorder are  
6 accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout  
7 their life; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental  
9 disability resulting in varying levels of impairment of an  
10 individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive  
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal  
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and  
14 is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently  
15 and to varying degrees; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no known single cause of autism, but  
17 increased awareness and funding can help families today; and

1       WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not  
2   been found, individuals living with autism spectrum disorder can  
3   be assisted in reaching their greatest potential through  
4   accurate early diagnosis, appropriate education and  
5   intervention; and

6       WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
7   Prevention, approximately 1 in 68 American children are living  
8   with autism spectrum disorder; and

9       WHEREAS, The number of adults living with autism spectrum  
10   disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few  
11   years as adolescents age into adulthood; and

12       WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services created the Office  
13   of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism  
14   Services, to provide expertise and support for all agencies  
15   serving Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorder;  
16   therefore be it

17       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2017  
18   as "Autism Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge its  
19   observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit of all  
20   individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and their  
21   families.