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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 260 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, BIZZARRO, KINSEY, KORTZ, BURNS, SONNEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DONATUCCI, MILLARD, ISAACSON, YOUNGBLOOD,  
READSHAW, SCHWEYER, MARKOSEK, McCLINTON, FREEMAN AND NEILSON,  
APRIL 25, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 25, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 as "Huntington's Disease  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder  
4 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the  
5 brain, leading to the deterioration of an individual's physical  
6 and mental abilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality  
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired  
9 judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech,  
10 swallowing difficulties and significant weight loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually first appear in individuals between  
12 30 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year  
13 period; and

14 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America  
15 estimates that there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic  
16 Americans and more than 200,000 are at risk of inheriting the

1 faulty gene that causes the disease; and

2 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential  
3 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's  
4 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene and  
5 developing the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected  
7 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually  
8 rendering the individual totally dependent upon others for his  
9 or her care; and

10 WHEREAS, While medications can alleviate some of the  
11 symptoms, no treatment is available to alter the course of  
12 Huntington's disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of  
14 entire families emotionally, socially and economically; and

15 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may  
16 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional  
17 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

18 WHEREAS, Researchers identified the gene that causes  
19 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have continued to develop  
20 treatments in the hope of ultimately finding a cure; and

21 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America is  
22 dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals affected by  
23 Huntington's disease and has created a network of support  
24 through education, advocacy and outreach; and

25 WHEREAS, There is still a need for greater public awareness  
26 of Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, State  
27 and local levels to support affected individuals as well as  
28 their families and caregivers; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
30 month of May 2019 as "Huntington's Disease Awareness Month" in

1 Pennsylvania.