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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 536 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, FRANKEL, McCLINTON, KINSEY, McNEILL,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, T. DAVIS, HILL-EVANS, RYAN, KORTZ, MURT,  
MILLARD, LONGIETTI, BURNS, MERSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE,  
HEFFLEY, READSHAW, DiGIROLAMO AND JOHNSON-HARRELL,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 24, 2019, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth stand firmly  
4 committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities  
5 because they:

6 (1) provide safe, challenging and engaging learning  
7 experiences that help children develop social, emotional,  
8 physical and academic skills;

9 (2) support working families by ensuring that their  
10 children are safe and productive after the regular school day  
11 ends;

12 (3) build stronger communities by involving students,  
13 parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives  
14 of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships  
15 among youths, families and adults; and

16 (4) engage families, schools and community partners in

1       advancing the welfare of our children;

2   and

3       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has provided significant  
4 leadership in the area of community involvement in the education  
5 and well-being of our youths, grounded in the principle that  
6 quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children  
7 become successful adults; and

8       WHEREAS, It is estimated that every \$1 invested in  
9 afterschool programs saves \$3 by increasing students' earning  
10 potential, improving students' performance at school and  
11 reducing crime and welfare costs; and

12       WHEREAS, For students in kindergarten through twelfth grade,  
13 more than 89% of their time is spent learning outside school  
14 during afterschool and summer programs, in libraries, museums  
15 and science centers or at home or in the community; and

16       WHEREAS, Afterschool programs engage students in hands-on,  
17 real world science, technology, engineering and mathematics  
18 (STEM) projects to help build vital 21st-century skills,  
19 cultivate an interest in STEM and offer innovative ways for  
20 students to connect STEM to their lives and community; and

21       WHEREAS, Approximately 19.4 million families report that they  
22 would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were  
23 available; and

24       WHEREAS, Afterschool programs can provide holistic support  
25 for children and improve the development of social and emotional  
26 competencies such as problem solving, critical thinking and  
27 interpersonal skills; and

28       WHEREAS, Many afterschool programs across the country are  
29 facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced  
30 to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

1       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to investing in the  
2 health and safety of all young people by providing expanded  
3 learning opportunities that help to close the achievement gap  
4 and prepare young people to compete in the global economy; and

5       WHEREAS, "Lights On Afterschool," the national celebration of  
6 afterschool programs held this year on October 24, 2019,  
7 promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the  
8 lives of children, families and communities; therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October  
10 24, 2019, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in Pennsylvania; and be  
11 it further

12       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives enthusiastically  
13 endorse "Lights On Afterschool" and commit this Commonwealth to  
14 engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities which  
15 ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all  
16 children after school.