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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 537 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, RYAN, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, BURGOS, MILLARD, MURT,  
LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, JOHNSON-HARRELL,  
BURNS, McNEILL, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, KINSEY, HOWARD, DEASY, MOUL,  
READSHAW AND SCHWEYER, OCTOBER 15, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 15, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 21, 2019, as "The Great American Smokeout  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Smoking, exposure to secondhand smoke and the  
4 marketing of tobacco products were commonplace in the 1970s when  
5 annual Great American Smokeout events were first observed; and

6 WHEREAS, The tobacco industry in the United States spent more  
7 than \$25 million per day in 2017 in advertising for tobacco  
8 products; and

9 WHEREAS, Today, more than 34 million people in the United  
10 States smoke cigarettes of which 75% smoke every day; and

11 WHEREAS, Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable  
12 cause of disease and premature death in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is believed to cause approximately  
14 1 in 5 deaths in the United States each year; and

15 WHEREAS, Exposure to secondhand smoke alone causes an  
16 estimated 41,000 deaths per year among adults in the United

1 States; and

2 WHEREAS, Including secondhand smoke, cigarette smoking causes  
3 more than 480,000 deaths annually; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey,  
5 nearly 4.9 million middle and high school students used tobacco  
6 in 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, E-cigarettes remain the most commonly used tobacco  
8 product among youths for the last four years; and

9 WHEREAS, Smoking-related illnesses in the United States cost  
10 \$170 billion per year in direct medical care for adults and \$156  
11 billion per year in lost productivity; and

12 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking increases the risk of cancers of  
13 the mouth and throat, lung, esophagus, pancreas, cervix, kidney,  
14 bladder, stomach, colon, rectum and liver, as well as acute  
15 myeloid leukemia; and

16 WHEREAS, Smoking greatly increases the risk of debilitating,  
17 long-term lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic  
18 bronchitis; and

19 WHEREAS, Smoking also causes heart attack, stroke and  
20 diabetes; and

21 WHEREAS, Half of all smokers who keep smoking will eventually  
22 die from a smoking-related health condition; and

23 WHEREAS, A smoker's heart rate and blood pressure drop just  
24 20 minutes after quitting smoking; and

25 WHEREAS, One year after quitting smoking, the excess risk of  
26 coronary heart disease is half that of someone who still smokes,  
27 and the risk of heart attack drops dramatically; and

28 WHEREAS, Fifteen years after quitting smoking, a smoker's  
29 risk of coronary heart disease is equivalent to the risk for a  
30 nonsmoker; and

1       WHEREAS, No matter how old a smoker is or how long the  
2 individual has been a smoker, quitting can help that individual  
3 live a longer, healthier life; and

4       WHEREAS, Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Great  
5 American Smokeout is held each year on the third Thursday of  
6 November to create awareness of addiction and tobacco-related  
7 diseases and deaths while promoting further regulation of  
8 tobacco products and helping smokers quit; and

9       WHEREAS, Research has shown that smokers have greater success  
10 quitting smoking when they have appropriate support; and

11       WHEREAS, Smoking cessation is more readily attained when  
12 smokers use two or more of these recommended measures: support  
13 groups, online groups, counseling, nicotine replacement,  
14 prescription medicine, guide books and encouragement from  
15 friends and family members; and

16       WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, noting the dangers of  
17 tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, is committed to  
18 the prevention and cessation of smoking and other tobacco use;  
19 therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
21 November 21, 2019, as "The Great American Smokeout Day" in  
22 Pennsylvania.