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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 635 Session of 2019

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MOUL, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE, KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, HELM, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, MURT, BURNS, BROOKS, SONNEY, PASHINSKI, STAATS, DONATUCCI, JAMES, KORTZ, SCHMITT, CONKLIN, RYAN, GAYDOS, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, NEILSON, BERNSTINE, SAYLOR, WARREN, PICKETT, EVERETT, HOWARD, DEASY AND OBERLANDER, DECEMBER 16, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, DECEMBER 16, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2019 as "Family Caregiver  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 1.8 million family caregivers in this  
4 Commonwealth provide almost \$20 billion in uncompensated care  
5 annually to their loved ones; and

6 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are relatives who, in addition to  
7 working full time themselves, spend an average of more than 20  
8 hours per week providing unpaid care to a parent, spouse or  
9 other adult relative at home; and

10 WHEREAS, Family caregivers provide assistance with daily  
11 activities such as cooking, cleaning, bathing, medical care  
12 adherence monitoring and transportation to appointments; and

13 WHEREAS, The assistance provided by family caregivers often  
14 supplements other home and community-based services offered by  
15 professional care providers to keep the family together at home;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Family caregivers save the Commonwealth more than  
3 \$37,000 per person per year in medical assistance spending by  
4 keeping their loved ones at home rather than in a nursing  
5 facility; and

6 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are at high risk for health  
7 problems themselves, ranging from chronic pain such as headaches  
8 and backaches to weakened immune systems, from the stress of  
9 caring for another person full time; and

10 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are also at higher risk for  
11 depression, emotional problems and cognitive issues, with as  
12 many as 70% of family caregivers showing clinical symptoms of  
13 depression; and

14 WHEREAS, The out-of-pocket expenses for family caregivers can  
15 be on average \$2,400 per year; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
17 month of November 2019 as "Family Caregiver Month" in  
18 Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that  
20 family caregivers work hard each day, put the needs of their  
21 loved ones ahead of their own and keep families together at home  
22 where they most want to be.