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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 718 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, BURNS, CONKLIN,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DeLUCA, ECKER, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GAINNEY,  
GREINER, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, KIM, KINSEY, KORTZ,  
LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, OWLETT, PYLE,  
READSHAW, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHMITT, SONNEY, STAATS, THOMAS,  
WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD AND WARREN, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2020 as "Brain Injury Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain  
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes  
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the  
7 brain secondary to trauma, stroke, aneurysms, postsurgical  
8 complications or certain acquired disease processes; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 3.5 million children  
10 and adults sustain an ABI each year; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 13.5 million Americans live with ABI,  
12 including stroke; and

13 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a subset of ABI, is an  
14 insult to the brain caused by a direct blow to the head, the  
15 head hitting an object or the head being shaken violently; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.8 million children and adults

1 sustain TBIs in the United States each year; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year, 2.5 million people are treated in  
3 emergency departments for TBIs and 288,000 individuals are  
4 hospitalized for TBIs; and

5 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
6 provides that the estimated economic cost of TBIs in 2010,  
7 including direct and indirect medical costs, was approximately  
8 \$76.5 billion; and

9 WHEREAS, The CDC shares that TBIs are a major cause of death  
10 and disability in the United States, contributing to  
11 approximately 30% of all injury deaths; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-  
13 related disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Every day, 153 individuals in the United States die  
15 from TBI-related injuries, and each year 56,800 individuals in  
16 the United States die from TBI; and

17 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania reports  
18 the following statistics relating to brain injuries in  
19 Pennsylvania:

20 (1) 529,200 individuals are living with brain injury;

21 (2) 2,078 individuals die from brain injuries each year;

22 (3) 18,788 individuals are hospitalized each year after  
23 brain injury;

24 (4) 86,240 individuals are seen in the emergency room  
25 following brain injury each year;

26 (5) 25,975 children suffer brain injuries each year; and

27 (6) 8,612 individuals sustain long-term or lifelong  
28 disabilities from brain injury each year;

29 and

30 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research

1 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain  
2 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss  
3 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research  
4 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury  
5 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of  
6 Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a  
8 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury  
9 Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury  
10 Coalition, Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation  
11 and Community Providers Association; and

12 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the  
13 Department of Health is also committed to expanding public  
14 knowledge regarding TBI as well as increasing coordination and  
15 integration within existing service delivery systems; and

16 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that  
17 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community  
18 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver,  
19 which over the next three years is transitioning to the  
20 Community HealthChoices program; and

21 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded  
22 by the Department of Health and the Department of Education,  
23 provides assistance to students who have sustained an ABI and  
24 provides consultation through the students' school districts  
25 until graduation; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
27 month of March 2020 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in  
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
30 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut

1 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015, the  
2 Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, 777 East  
3 Park Drive, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111 and the Pennsylvania  
4 Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc., PO Box 2164, Boothwyn, PA  
5 19061.