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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 199 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, CAPPELLETTI, KEARNEY, MUTH, SAVAL,  
SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE AND STREET,  
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 13 through 19, 2023, as  
2 "Transgender Awareness Week" and November 20, 2023, as  
3 "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, "Transgender Awareness Week" is a time for  
5 transgender people and their allies to take action and bring  
6 attention to the community by educating the public and advancing  
7 advocacy around the issues of prejudice, discrimination and  
8 violence that affect the transgender community; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations around the country  
10 annually participate in "Transgender Awareness Week" to help  
11 raise the visibility of transgender and gender-nonconforming  
12 people and hold space to lift up transgender people's sharing of  
13 their own stories, joys and experiences; and

14 WHEREAS, The day following "Transgender Awareness Week" is  
15 November 20 and this day, known as "Transgender Day of  
16 Remembrance," began in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn  
17 Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a 34-  
18 year-old Black transgender woman who was the victim of an

1 unsolved and brutal murder in 1998; and

2 WHEREAS, "Transgender Day of Remembrance" is now an annual  
3 day of observance to honor the memory of all individuals whose  
4 lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence and bring  
5 attention to the continued violence endured by transgender  
6 people; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2023, at least 25 transgender and gender-  
8 nonconforming people have had their lives taken tragically  
9 through violent means, with 72% killed with a gun; and

10 WHEREAS, As in previous years, most were Black and Latinx  
11 transgender women; and

12 WHEREAS, The designation of "Transgender Awareness Week" and  
13 "Transgender Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania raises much-needed  
14 awareness of the violence and injustice that transgender people  
15 continue to face each day and encourages us to mourn and honor  
16 their lives by expressing love, support and respect for all  
17 transgender people; and

18 WHEREAS, The Senate and the General Assembly must act to  
19 protect and preserve the lives of all transgender people by  
20 prioritizing funding and legislation; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of November 13  
22 through November 19, 2023, as "Transgender Awareness Week" and  
23 November 20, 2023, as "Transgender Remembrance Day" in  
24 Pennsylvania.