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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 522 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY PYLE, KOTIK, KIRKLAND, PICKETT, COHEN, KINSEY,  
CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, KORTZ, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO, PARKER,  
D. MILLER, J. HARRIS, M. K. KELLER, BROWNLEE, CAUSER,  
YOUNGBLOOD, SONNEY, MARSICO, MAHONEY, FARINA, ROSS, BAKER,  
MURT AND ROCK, OCTOBER 21, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 21, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2013 as "Alpha-1 Screening  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AAT Deficiency or  
4 Alpha-1) is a common hereditary disorder that can result in  
5 life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or in lung  
6 disease in adults; and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 occurs when there is a lack of a protein in  
8 the blood called alpha-1 antitrypsin, or AAT; and

9 WHEREAS, AAT, the alpha-1 protein, is mainly produced by the  
10 liver and protects the lungs from inflammation caused by  
11 infection and inhaled irritants; and

12 WHEREAS, This disorder leads to a buildup of abnormal AAT in  
13 the liver that can cause liver disease and a decrease of AAT in  
14 the blood that can lead to lung disease; and

15 WHEREAS, The most common symptoms of Alpha-1 include  
16 shortness of breath, wheezing, chronic bronchitis, recurring

1 chest colds, bronchiectasis, unexplained liver disease or  
2 elevated liver enzymes, eyes and skin turning yellow and  
3 swelling of the abdomen or legs; and

4 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 affects nearly 100,000 individuals in the  
5 United States, and an estimated 25 million people carry a single  
6 deficient gene that causes Alpha-1 and may pass the gene on to  
7 their children; and

8 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is widely underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is often first diagnosed as asthma or  
11 smoking-related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD);  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Screening programs are important because fewer than  
14 10% of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been diagnosed, and  
15 it often takes an average of five doctors and seven years from  
16 the time symptoms appear before proper diagnosis is made, which  
17 can be done using a simple blood test; and

18 WHEREAS, It is important to increase awareness and detection  
19 of this serious hereditary and misdiagnosed disorder; therefore  
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
22 month of November 2013 as "Alpha-1 Screening Awareness Month" in  
23 Pennsylvania and call upon all residents of this Commonwealth to  
24 observe this month by participating in activities to raise  
25 awareness of Alpha-1 and support those individuals affected by  
26 this condition.