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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1101 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE,  
THOMAS, DONATUCCI, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS, SOLOMON, KINSEY,  
MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL AND DALEY, OCTOBER 3, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 3, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the higher prevalence of asthma in the African-  
2 American community in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Asthma is caused by the narrowing or blocking of the  
4 lung airways, often making it difficult to breathe properly; and

5 WHEREAS, Patients with asthma may experience wheezing and  
6 shortness of breath, along with coughing and a tightness in  
7 their chest; and

8 WHEREAS, Asthma is a complex disease with many causes,  
9 including inheriting the disease from a parent; and

10 WHEREAS, Ethnic and socioeconomic status creates disparities  
11 in access to health care and exposure to environmental triggers,  
12 including, but not limited to, dust mites, pests, mold,  
13 secondhand smoke and pollution which contribute to asthma  
14 symptoms; and

15 WHEREAS, There is no cure for asthma, but individuals with  
16 asthma can manage the symptoms of the disease with treatment and  
17 proper prevention by avoiding triggers; and

1       WHEREAS, Compared to other races and ethnicities, African  
2 Americans are not only more likely to have asthma, but the  
3 disease is more likely to be severe; and

4       WHEREAS, African-American children have the highest  
5 prevalence of asthma, about 13.4%, compared to 7.4% of non-  
6 Hispanic white children with asthma; and

7       WHEREAS, African Americans living in low-income urban areas  
8 have a greater prevalence of asthma and greater risk of dying  
9 from asthma than African Americans overall; and

10       WHEREAS, African Americans are less likely to be seen by an  
11 asthma specialist, have access to adequate follow-up or routine  
12 health care to manage the disease or receive proper medication  
13 to control the symptoms of asthma; and

14       WHEREAS, African-American adults are three times more likely  
15 to be hospitalized as a result of asthma; and

16       WHEREAS, African-American children 2 to 17 years of age are  
17 4.5 times more likely to be hospitalized as a result of asthma;  
18 and

19       WHEREAS, African Americans die from asthma at a higher rate  
20 than individuals of other races or ethnicities; and

21       WHEREAS, African Americans, especially African-American  
22 women, are three times more likely to die from asthma than any  
23 other group; and

24       WHEREAS, It is important to bring awareness to the  
25 disparities in asthma care and treatment that exist in the  
26 African-American community and ensure equal access in order to  
27 protect all individuals; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 higher prevalence of asthma in the African-American community in  
30 Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support community  
2 resources and programs that have proven strategies in improving  
3 the health of African Americans with asthma.