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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 118 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, KNOWLES, V. BROWN, COHEN, ROZZI,  
BAKER, KAVULICH, READSHAW, BENNINGHOFF, EMRICK, HEFFLEY,  
BISHOP, LONGIETTI, FRANKEL, MUSTIO, KIM, GODSHALL, BURNS,  
DIGIROLAMO, GIBBONS, BOBACK, MILLARD, KILLION, SONNEY, DUSH,  
KINSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, THOMAS, MACKENZIE, PICKETT,  
HENNESSEY, HARHART, GREINER, SCHWEYER, FREEMAN, CAUSER,  
YOUNGBLOOD, A. HARRIS, PETRI, KIRKLAND, BROWNLEE, GINGRICH,  
SCHLOSSBERG, MATZIE, CALTAGIRONE, FARINA, HELM, DONATUCCI,  
ROSS, DeLUCA, CUTLER, KAUFFMAN, GOODMAN, C. PARKER, GRELL,  
WATSON, VEREB, MAJOR, MURT, MAHONEY, RAPP, GILLEN AND WARD,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2015 as "Esophageal Cancer  
2 Awareness and Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 17,000 people will be  
4 diagnosed with esophageal cancer in the United States in 2015,  
5 and more than 15,000 will die from the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest cancers:  
7 fewer than one in five patients will survive for five years; and

8 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is often not detected and  
9 diagnosed until the disease has reached the later stages, when  
10 treatment is often radical, likely to cause complications and  
11 the outcomes are poor; and

12 WHEREAS, In the past, when esophageal cancer was detected  
13 early, open esophagectomy was associated with a high mortality

1 rate and a prolonged length of stay and recovery; and

2 WHEREAS, Recent advances in surgery and critical care have  
3 allowed centers of excellence in selected academic hospitals to  
4 perform minimally invasive esophagectomy with excellent  
5 outcomes, low risk of death and earlier return to activities of  
6 daily living; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the most common causes of esophageal cancer  
8 is heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is  
9 viewed by many sufferers as an acceptable condition of life; and

10 WHEREAS, GERD can lead to Barrett's esophagus, which results  
11 in as much as a 125% increase in a person's chance of developing  
12 esophageal cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, With monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential  
14 for long-term irreversible damage leading to esophageal cancer  
15 can be avoided; and

16 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can even occur without reflux  
17 symptoms, history of smoking or excessive alcohol use; and

18 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the cancers that receive  
19 the least amount of Federal medical research funding; and

20 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians will  
21 be enhanced by improving esophageal cancer awareness, prevention  
22 and increased research funding into early detection and  
23 treatment strategies; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
25 month of April 2015 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and  
26 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.