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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 228 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY KULIK, READSHAW, TOOHIL, MURT, MILLARD, DONATUCCI,  
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APRIL 10, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 10, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of July 2017 as "Ultraviolet Safety Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania to raise awareness of the dangers of UV rays  
3 and point out the most effective ways to avoid these harmful  
4 rays.

5 WHEREAS, The skin is the body's largest organ and it helps  
6 control body temperature and protect internal organs against  
7 sunlight, injury and infection; and

8 WHEREAS, Many people do not adequately protect their skin  
9 from dangerous environmental hazards and do not consider the  
10 necessity of protecting their skin; and

11 WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United  
12 States, with more skin cancers diagnosed in the United States  
13 than all other cancers combined; and

14 WHEREAS, The number of skin cancer cases has been increasing  
15 over the past few decades, mostly from too much exposure to  
16 ultraviolet (UV) rays, a form of electromagnetic radiation; and

17 WHEREAS, Sunlight is the main source of UV rays, although UV

1 rays can also come from man-made sources, including tanning  
2 beds, sun lamps and welding torches; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, there are  
4 three main types of UV rays:

5 (1) UVA rays age skin cells, damage the DNA of skin  
6 cells, are linked to long-term skin damage, including  
7 wrinkles and may play a role in some skin cancers.

8 (2) UVB rays have slightly more energy than UVA rays,  
9 can damage skin cell DNA directly, cause sunburns and are  
10 also thought to cause most skin cancers.

11 (3) UVC rays have more energy than other types of UV  
12 rays, however, UVC rays are absorbed in the ozone layer of  
13 the atmosphere before reaching the earth and are not normally  
14 a cause of skin cancer;

15 and

16 WHEREAS, Avoiding sunlight completely is not possible or  
17 healthy, however, there are several ways to protect the skin  
18 from harmful exposure to UV radiation; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human  
20 Services offers the following everyday steps to safeguard skin  
21 from the harmful effects of UV radiation from the sun:

22 (1) Wear protective clothing, including a hat and  
23 sunglasses.

24 (2) Avoid sunburns.

25 (3) Stay in the shade and out of the sun, if possible,  
26 between the peak burning hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when UV  
27 light is the strongest.

28 (4) Use extra caution near reflective surfaces,  
29 including water, snow and sand.

30 (5) Use extra caution when at higher altitudes.

1           (6) Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen and reapply  
2 throughout the day;  
3 and

4       WHEREAS, Most skin cancers can be detected early through skin  
5 self-exams and regular skin exams by a health care professional;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, Regular skin exams are important to finding new,  
8 evolving or unusual growths on the skin or changes to the  
9 symmetry, border, color or diameter of moles; therefore be it

10       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
11 month of July 2017 as "Ultraviolet Safety Month" in Pennsylvania  
12 to raise awareness of the dangers of UV rays and point out the  
13 most effective ways to avoid these harmful rays.