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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 682 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, O'NEILL, WATSON, RYAN, DEAN, MILLARD,  
D. COSTA, READSHAW, DRISCOLL, JAMES, ROTHMAN, DAVIS, SOLOMON,  
MURT, M. QUINN, JOZWIAK, A. HARRIS, STAATS AND BRADFORD,  
MARCH 13, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 13, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services  
2 to select the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base  
3 Willow Grove and the former Naval Air Warfare Center  
4 Warminster and Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships  
5 for an exposure assessment and study on human health  
6 implications of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances  
7 contamination.

8 WHEREAS, The United States military used foam containing  
9 perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid  
10 (PFOA), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting training at  
11 two former bases, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow  
12 Grove in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, and Naval Air  
13 Warfare Center Warminster in Warminster Township, Bucks County,  
14 Pennsylvania; and

15 WHEREAS, The former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base  
16 Willow Grove is the location of Horsham Air Guard Station, an  
17 active base of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard; and

18 WHEREAS, The chemicals have appeared in elevated levels in  
19 public and private water wells; and

1       WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are "extremely persistent in the  
2 environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation  
3 processes," according to the Environmental Protection Agency  
4 (EPA), which has also stated: "The toxicity, mobility and  
5 bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential  
6 adverse effects for the environment and human health"; and

7       WHEREAS, A growing body of science has established  
8 associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health  
9 effects, including a variety of cancers; and

10       WHEREAS, The chemicals were first discovered in local public  
11 water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing  
12 program, resulting in several public water wells being taken  
13 offline; and

14       WHEREAS, On May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its  
15 health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduces the  
16 amount considered safe in drinking water: in the worst possible  
17 case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously  
18 deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the  
19 recommended limits; and

20       WHEREAS, The new recommended levels have resulted in  
21 officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster  
22 Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer  
23 Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water  
24 wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and  
25 Warminster Townships and nearly 150 private wells; and

26       WHEREAS, Section 316 of the National Defense Authorization  
27 Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91, 131 Stat. 1283  
28 requires the United States Secretary of Health and Human  
29 Services to conduct an exposure assessment of at least eight  
30 current or former domestic military installations known to have

1 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs)  
2 contamination, which includes PFOS and PFOA, in addition to  
3 commencing a study on the human health implications of PFASs  
4 contamination in sources of water and relevant exposure  
5 pathways; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Secretary of  
8 Health and Human Services to select these two installations and  
9 Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships for the exposure  
10 assessment and the study on human health implications; and be it  
11 further

12       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
14 each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from  
15 Pennsylvania, to the United States Secretary of Health and Human  
16 Services and to the United States Secretary of Defense.