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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 863 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY MOUL, MAY 19, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 19, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2014, as "Tourette Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children between 6 and  
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are  
5 diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic  
6 condition which has no cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is a lifelong developmental  
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age  
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are affected by  
12 tics which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or  
13 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face periodic  
15 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these  
16 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have  
18 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and

1 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention  
2 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,  
3 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,  
4 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are frequently  
6 misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and  
7 even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing  
8 symptoms, which at times seem controllable; and

9 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome has historically been  
10 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional  
11 disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

12 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often teased  
13 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

14 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette Syndrome are often  
15 disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators  
16 who fail to understand that the child is unable to control his  
17 or her tics and that the child may be delayed in his or her  
18 maturity and emotional responses; and

19 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face  
20 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,  
21 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their  
22 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

23 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very  
24 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when  
25 given the proper support; and

26 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with  
27 Disabilities Act (ADA) to disregard disability in hiring or  
28 promotions and to make accommodations to support their employees  
29 with Tourette Syndrome so the employees can be successful in the  
30 workplace and not be forced to file for disability; and

1       WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, but many  
2 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these  
3 accommodations for individuals with Tourette Syndrome; and

4       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,  
5 has been established to promote awareness and provide support  
6 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this  
7 Commonwealth; and

8       WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder will help guarantee hope  
9 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette  
10 Syndrome; therefore be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
12 needs of these individuals with neurological impairment and  
13 recognize May 15 through June 15, 2014, as "Tourette Syndrome  
14 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all citizens to  
15 support the need for Tourette Syndrome awareness and education  
16 in order to assist those individuals and families who deal with  
17 this neurobiological disorder every day of their lives.