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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 871 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, MILLARD, BISHOP, SONNEY, COHEN, PARKER,  
YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN, J. HARRIS, THOMAS, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO,  
MCNEILL, MURT, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, DONATUCCI, PASHINSKI,  
VEREB, MIRABITO, BOBACK, GRELL, FRANKEL, MAJOR, KINSEY,  
GAINNEY, GOODMAN, LUCAS, READSHAW, KIRKLAND, ROSS, EVERETT,  
ROEBUCK, MAHONEY AND V. BROWN, JUNE 2, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 2, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 17, 2014, as "Children's Sickle Cell Advocacy  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 2,000  
4 infants are born with sickle cell disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder that affects  
6 red blood cells, which become sickle-shaped, making it difficult  
7 for these cells to pass through small blood vessels; and

8 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease occurs when a child inherits two  
9 sickle hemoglobin genes, one from each parent; and

10 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is not contagious and there is  
11 no known cure for sickle cell disease; and

12 WHEREAS, The complications from this serious disease are  
13 usually fatal, so the primary goal of health care providers is  
14 to prevent further complications; and

15 WHEREAS, Children with sickle cell disease require ongoing

1 medical attention and typically require hospitalization on a  
2 periodic basis; and

3 WHEREAS, Hospitalizations and home recovery result in a  
4 school-age child missing an average of one month of school per  
5 year, which creates special challenges for the children, their  
6 parents, educators and social workers; and

7 WHEREAS, If hospitalization occurs, this can be a difficult  
8 time for children and their families, often causing economic  
9 hardship that requires financial support for the families; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States, sickle cell disease is most  
11 common in African Americans, occurring in 1 in every 500 births  
12 in this ethnic group, while also occurring in 1 in every 36,000  
13 Hispanic-American births; and

14 WHEREAS, By 2050, it is estimated that more than 400,000  
15 babies will be born with sickle cell disease around the world,  
16 as the incidence of this hereditary blood disorder is  
17 increasing; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June  
19 17, 2014, as "Children's Sickle Cell Advocacy Day" in  
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
22 Ms. Andrea Williams, Executive Director, Children's Sickle Cell  
23 Foundation, Inc., Gove Business Center, 226 Paul Street, Suite  
24 105, Pittsburgh, PA 15211.