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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 895 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, COHEN, KINSEY, D. COSTA, HENNESSEY,  
KIRKLAND, KOTIK, CALTAGIRONE, DiGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, MILLARD,  
DAVIS, WATSON, ROZZI, WHEELAND, READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG, ROSS,  
NEILSON, MAHONEY, GILLEN, MILNE, PAYNE, SAINATO, PASHINSKI,  
TOOHIL, BARBIN, SAYLOR, J. HARRIS AND DONATUCCI, MAY 18, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 18, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Sean Parker and the Parker Institute for Cancer  
2 Immunotherapy for their innovative efforts in the fight  
3 against cancer.

4 WHEREAS, The Parker Foundation is providing a \$250 million  
5 grant to launch the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, a  
6 collaboration among many of the country's best scientists,  
7 clinicians and industry partners to lead an unprecedented cancer  
8 immunotherapy research effort; and

9 WHEREAS, The Parker Foundation is a private foundation  
10 established in 2015 through a \$600 million gift from Sean  
11 Parker; and

12 WHEREAS, Sean Parker is a philanthropist and entrepreneur  
13 with a record of launching genre-defining companies such as  
14 Napster and Plaxo; and

15 WHEREAS, The Parker Institute's goal is to accelerate the  
16 development of breakthrough immunotherapies capable of turning

1 cancer into a curable disease by ensuring the coordination and  
2 collaboration of the field's top researchers and quickly  
3 translating their findings into patient treatments; and

4 WHEREAS, The Parker Institute includes more than 40  
5 laboratories and 300 researchers from across the country,  
6 including one at the University of Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, Each Parker Institute research center receives  
8 comprehensive funding and access to dedicated research, clinical  
9 resources and the key technologies needed to accelerate research  
10 discoveries in cancer immunotherapy; and

11 WHEREAS, In a unique agreement among the centers,  
12 intellectual property is being shared, enabling all researchers  
13 to have immediate access to a broad swath of core discoveries;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The development of cancer-targeting T-cell  
16 therapies, pioneered by Carl June, M.D., of the University of  
17 Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, has led to impressive  
18 results in several blood cancers in children and adults; and

19 WHEREAS, The Parker Institute's scientific advisors and site  
20 leaders have crafted a scientific road map which allows Parker  
21 Institute scientists to further major cross-cutting  
22 collaborative research projects as well as fund individual  
23 research projects at Parker Institute centers; and

24 WHEREAS, Because of the large number of patients in its  
25 network, the Parker Institute can take discoveries from bench to  
26 clinical trials to bedside more quickly than siloed research  
27 models; and

28 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth strongly supports this initiative  
29 and urges continued investment in cancer research within this  
30 Commonwealth; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Sean  
2 Parker and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy for  
3 their innovative efforts in the fight against cancer.