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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY COSTA, JANUARY 29, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 29, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 30, 2018, as "CTE Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE is a  
4 degenerative brain disease that appears in persons with a  
5 history of repetitive brain trauma sustained over a period of  
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, CTE was first described in 1928 by Dr. Harrison  
8 Martland in a study published in the *Journal of the American*  
9 *Medical Association* linking brain injury and boxing (Martland,  
10 Harrison S. (1928) "Punch Drunk." *JAMA* 91(15): 1103-1107); and

11 WHEREAS, It was not until 2002 that Dr. Bennet Omalu  
12 discovered the first evidence of CTE in a professional football  
13 player and, together with his colleagues at the University of  
14 Pittsburgh, published the details of his groundbreaking findings  
15 in 2005 (Omalu, B., DeKosky S., Minster, R., Kamboh, M.,  
16 Hamilton, R., & Wecht, C. (2005) "Chronic Traumatic  
17 Encephalopathy in a National Football League Player."  
18 *Neurosurgery*, 57(1), 128-134); and

1       WHEREAS, CTE is caused by a buildup of an abnormal protein  
2 called tau in the brain which leads to brain cell death; and

3       WHEREAS, The risk of developing CTE is greatest among  
4 athletes and military veterans who frequently endure repeated  
5 subconcussive blows to the head from playing contact sports or  
6 suffer traumatic injury from military training or blasting, but  
7 CTE also appears in survivors of domestic abuse and persons with  
8 epilepsy; and

9       WHEREAS, Although symptoms associated with CTE, such as  
10 memory loss, tremors, progressive dementia, depression, suicidal  
11 thoughts, impaired judgment, paranoia and substance abuse and  
12 addiction, most often present years or decades after the brain  
13 trauma or hits cease, symptoms have been found in a patient as  
14 young as 17 years of age; and

15       WHEREAS, Currently, CTE can only be definitively diagnosed  
16 after death through postmortem neuropathological analysis; and

17       WHEREAS, Advocacy organizations, health care providers and  
18 institutional researchers are dedicated to studying the causes  
19 and symptoms of CTE in order to enable parents and families to  
20 make informed decisions regarding the best interests of their  
21 children in youth sports and to develop an earlier diagnostic  
22 tool so patients may address CTE symptoms as early as possible;  
23 and

24       WHEREAS, One such advocacy organization is the Patrick Risha  
25 CTE Awareness Foundation, founded by the family of Patrick  
26 Risha, who suffered from CTE after playing youth, high school  
27 and college football; and

28       WHEREAS, The mission of the Patrick Risha CTE Awareness  
29 Foundation is to provide parents of school-age children, who  
30 have very susceptible brains, with information about the dangers

1 of sports which involve head trauma; and

2 WHEREAS, The Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation and other  
3 organizations celebrate "CTE Awareness Day" across the United  
4 States in order to reflect on those individuals lost to CTE,  
5 help those suffering with the disease, and, most importantly,  
6 stop the disease; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania recognize January  
8 30, 2018, as "CTE Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.