THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 265 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, SABATINA AND COSTA, OCTOBER 29, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2019 as "Carbon Monoxide
2   Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3   WHEREAS, November is the best time to raise awareness for

4 carbon monoxide poisoning as the threat of exposure increases as

5 people stay indoors and burn more fuel to heat their homes

6 during the winter months; and

7   WHEREAS, Exposure occurs most commonly when a person leaves a

8 vehicle running, burns charcoal, alcohol or gasoline in an

9 enclosed space or smokes a cigar, cigarette or pipe; and

10   WHEREAS, Incorrectly vented or malfunctioning appliances and

11 products and equipment powered by internal combustion engines,

12 such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers and power

13 washers, also produce carbon monoxide; and

14   WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as a "silent killer"

15 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas

16 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

17   WHEREAS, Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include a

18 dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting,

1 shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision and loss of

2 consciousness; and

3 WHEREAS, The health effects of carbon monoxide poisoning can

4 vary significantly due to age, sex, weight and overall state of

5 heath; and

6 WHEREAS, Depending on the degree and length of exposure,

7 carbon monoxide poisoning can harm the central nervous system,

8 cause permanent brain damage or damage the heart, leading to

9 life-threatening cardiac complications or death; and

10 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and

11 Prevention found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in

12 accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has

14 determined that carbon monoxide claims approximately 400 lives

15 each year and that carbon monoxide exposure sends more than

16 20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

17 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide

18 poisonings are critical to protecting residents of Pennsylvania

19 from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the

20 home; and

21 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined to be

22 the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide; and

23 WHEREAS, There is a dramatic correlation between cities with

24 carbon monoxide alarm ordinances and lower death rates from

25 carbon monoxide poisoning; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of November

27 2019 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.