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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 284 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, SABATINA, MCGARRIGLE, FONTANA,  
FARNESE, BAKER, KILLION, EICHELBERGER, ARGALL, GREENLEAF,  
HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, RESCHENTHALER, FOLMER,  
BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, COSTA, SCAVELLO AND VOGEL,  
MARCH 20, 2018

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2018 as "Brain Injury Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury involves the death or injury of brain  
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways, resulting in  
5 changes in the way an individual thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the  
7 brain from trauma, stroke, aneurysms, postsurgical complications  
8 and certain acquired disease processes; and

9 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a subclassification  
10 of ABI caused by a direct blow to the head, the head hitting an  
11 object or the head being shaken violently; and

12 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
13 regards brain injury as a major cause of death and disability in  
14 the United States which injury contributes to approximately 30%  
15 of all injury-related deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 3.5 million children and adults in the

1 United States sustain an ABI each year and more than 12 million  
2 live with an ABI; and

3 WHEREAS, An average of approximately 2.5 million children and  
4 adults suffer TBIs in the United States each year, which results  
5 in approximately 2.2 million emergency department visits and  
6 280,000 hospital admissions; and

7 WHEREAS, On average, 137 individuals in the United States die  
8 from TBI-related injuries daily and 50,000 Americans die  
9 annually; and

10 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-  
11 related disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Annually in this Commonwealth:

13 (1) Nearly 26,000 children suffer a brain injury.

14 (2) More than 49,000 individuals require emergency room  
15 treatment for a brain injury.

16 (3) More than 10,000 individuals are hospitalized for  
17 brain injury.

18 (4) Approximately 8,600 individuals sustain long-term or  
19 lifelong disabilities due to brain injury.

20 (5) Approximately 2,200 residents die from a brain  
21 injury;

22 and

23 WHEREAS, More than 245,600 Pennsylvanians are living with  
24 brain injury; and

25 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research  
26 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain  
27 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss  
28 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research  
29 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury  
30 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of

1 Philadelphia; and

2 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a  
3 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury  
4 Association of Pennsylvania, the Acquired Brain Injury Network  
5 of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition,  
6 Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation and  
7 Community Providers Association; and

8 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the  
9 Department of Health is committed to expanding public knowledge  
10 regarding TBI as well as improving coordination and integration  
11 among existing service delivery systems; and

12 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that  
13 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community  
14 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver,  
15 which over the next three years, will be transitioned to the  
16 Community Health Choice Program; and

17 WHEREAS, The BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded through the  
18 Department of Health and the Department of Education, assists  
19 students who have sustained an ABI and provides consultation  
20 through the students' school districts until graduation;  
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2018  
23 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
26 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut  
27 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; the  
28 Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, 777 East  
29 Park Drive, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111 and the Pennsylvania  
30 Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc. PO Box 2164, Boothwyn, PA

1 19061.