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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 66 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, WARD, WOZNIAK, TEPLITZ, STACK, BAKER,  
FARNESE, ERICKSON, FERLO, WASHINGTON, SCARNATI, WAUGH,  
FONTANA, ARGALL, GREENLEAF, TOMLINSON, KASUNIC, RAFFERTY,  
BROWNE, ALLOWAY, BRUBAKER, PILEGGI, YUDICHAK, VULAKOVICH,  
SMITH, HUGHES, VOGEL, COSTA, WHITE AND SOLOBAY,  
MARCH 19, 2013

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 19, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2013 as "Child Abuse Prevention  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than one million children in the  
4 United States are documented as the victims of child abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2011, there were 3,408 substantiated cases of  
6 child abuse in this Commonwealth, with 34 children dying as a  
7 result of abuse and neglect; and

8 WHEREAS, More than half of the perpetrators in 2011 had a  
9 parental relationship with the child; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2010 through 2011, the Pennsylvania Coalition  
11 Against Rape provided services to more than 7,786 child victims  
12 of sexual violence; and

13 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and  
14 geographic boundaries; and

15 WHEREAS, The damaging effects of child abuse include, but are  
16 not limited to, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse and

1 physical and psychological difficulties; and

2 WHEREAS, Child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness  
3 raised so that families learn they have access to community  
4 resources which offer support, information and guidance to help  
5 stop or prevent abusive behaviors or conditions; and

6 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians in schools, social service  
7 agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout this  
8 Commonwealth, including the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance  
9 and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, are working to  
10 support the victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted the Newborn Protection  
12 Act, or Safe Haven Law, in 2002; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2003, an amendment to the Constitution of  
14 Pennsylvania was approved permitting child victims to testify  
15 electronically; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2006, the General Assembly enacted a  
17 comprehensive child abuse reform package (Act 179), updating the  
18 Child Protective Services Law and lengthening the statute of  
19 limitations for sexual offenses against children; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2011, the General Assembly enacted legislation  
21 (Act 111) to ensure that the Commonwealth meets federally  
22 mandated standards under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and  
23 Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248, 120 Stat. 587) by  
24 strengthening sex offender registration and notification; and

25 WHEREAS, Also in 2011, the General Assembly created the Task  
26 Force on Child Protection to examine the practices, processes  
27 and procedures relating to the response to child abuse and  
28 reporting of child abuse and to make recommendations to the  
29 Governor and General Assembly; and

30 WHEREAS, In spite of these efforts, more needs to be done to

1 guarantee a childhood free of abuse and victimization to every  
2 child in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2013  
4 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That the Senate commend those persons and community  
7 groups that work to treat and prevent child abuse and urge all  
8 Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the tragedy of  
9 child abuse.