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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 238 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY COHEN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, DAVIDSON, DONATUCCI,  
DRISCOLL, FLYNN, GIBBONS, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, JAMES, KAVULICH,  
W. KELLER, KINSEY, MARSHALL, McCARTER, McNEILL, MURT AND  
THOMAS, APRIL 10, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 10, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to support efforts to  
2 reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking  
3 functions in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act and  
4 supporting H.R. No. 381.

5 WHEREAS, An effective money and banking system is essential  
6 to the functioning of the economy; and

7 WHEREAS, Such a system must function in the public interest,  
8 without bias; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 1933, the Federal Banking Act of 1933, known  
10 as the Glass-Steagall Act, protected the public interest in  
11 matters dealing with the regulation of commercial and investment  
12 banking, in addition to insurance companies and securities; and

13 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall Act was repealed in 1999,  
14 partially contributing to the greatest speculative bubble and  
15 worldwide recession since the Great Depression of 1933; and

16 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has left millions of homes  
17 in foreclosure; and

18 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has cost the loss of

1 millions of jobs nationwide; and

2 WHEREAS, The worldwide recession has put severe financial  
3 strains on states, counties and cities, exacerbating  
4 unemployment and loss of civil services; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Senate and House of  
6 Representatives have been making efforts to restore the  
7 protections of the Glass-Steagall Act; and

8 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur has introduced H.R. No.  
9 381, known as the Return to Prudent Banking Act of 2015, and  
10 reviving the separation between commercial banking and the  
11 securities business in the manner provided in the Glass-Steagall  
12 Act; and

13 WHEREAS, The Glass-Steagall Act has widespread national  
14 support from such organizations as the American Federation of  
15 Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the  
16 American Federation of Teachers and the International  
17 Association of Machinists as well as from prominent economic and  
18 business leaders, including Thomas Hoenig of the FDIC; Sanford  
19 Weill, former CEO of Citigroup; economist Luigi Zingales; the  
20 New York Times; the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; the Los Angeles  
21 Times and many others; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge Congress to enact legislation  
24 that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment  
25 banking functions in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act,  
26 prohibiting commercial banks and bank holding companies from  
27 investing in stocks, underwriting securities or investing in or  
28 acting as guarantors to derivative transactions, in order to  
29 prevent American taxpayers from being called upon to fund  
30 hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out financial

1 institutions; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
3 President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
4 each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from  
5 Pennsylvania and to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.