

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 281 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, READSHAW, QUIGLEY, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, STAATS, MACKENZIE, ROZZI, PICKETT, HEFFLEY, DAVIS, HENNESSEY, SCHWEYER, KAUFFMAN, SONNEY, DUSH, KINSEY, KILLION, McCARTER, BOBACK, COHEN, THOMAS, GRELL, YOUNGBLOOD, WATSON, TALLMAN, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, VEREB, O'NEILL, WHEELAND, DONATUCCI, BAKER, DIGIROLAMO, BROWNLEE, KNOWLES, A. HARRIS, RAPP, STURLA, GOODMAN, WARD, MURT, PAYNE, ROSS, MAHONEY, DeLUCA, HARHAI, MARSICO, FARINA, SABATINA, GINGRICH, KIRKLAND, MAJOR AND D. COSTA, APRIL 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2015, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children between 6 and
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition which has no cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome is a lifelong developmental
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are affected by
12 tics which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or
13 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face periodic

changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome frequently have co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties, executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are frequently misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing symptoms, which at times seem controllable; and

WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome has historically been misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often teased and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Children with Tourette syndrome are often disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators who fail to understand that the child is unable to control his or her tics and that the child may be delayed in his or her maturity and emotional responses; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers, coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often very intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when given the proper support; and

WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with

1 Disabilities Act to disregard disability when hiring or
2 promoting and to make accommodations to support their employees
3 with Tourette syndrome so the employees can be successful in the
4 workplace and not be forced to file for disability; and

5 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, but many
6 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these
7 accommodations for individuals with Tourette syndrome; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
9 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
10 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette syndrome in this
11 Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder will help guarantee hope
13 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
14 syndrome; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
16 needs of these individuals with neurological impairment and
17 recognize May 15 through June 15, 2015, as "Tourette Syndrome
18 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all residents to
19 support the need for Tourette syndrome awareness and education
20 in order to assist those individuals and families who deal with
21 this neurobiological disorder every day of their lives.