

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 510 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, HELM, THOMAS, PICKETT, BIZZARRO, DAVIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, ROZZI, KIRKLAND, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, MURT, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, ACOSTA, DUSH, SONNEY, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, WATSON, C. PARKER, DONATUCCI, V. BROWN, HENNESSEY, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, J. HARRIS, McNEILL, KILLION, MARSHALL, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, MAHONEY, A. HARRIS, ROSS, GERGELY, KIM, BISHOP, O'NEILL, HARHAI, MAJOR, GILLEN, MARSICO, FARINA, GINGRICH, GIBBONS, D. COSTA, SAYLOR AND WARD, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2015 as "Meet the Blind Month"
 2 in Pennsylvania and recognizing October 15, 2015, as "White
 3 Cane Safety Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) was
 5 founded in 1940 to end discrimination against people who are
 6 blind and to secure first-class citizenship for all blind
 7 persons; and

8 WHEREAS, Today the NFB represents more than 50,000 members
 9 across this nation and continues to work to secure equal rights
 10 and opportunities for all individuals who are blind or visually
 11 impaired; and

12 WHEREAS, The NFB and other organizations work to change
 13 attitudes about blindness by providing information to parents,
 14 teachers and school administrators and to businesses, government

1 and social and civic leaders; and

2 WHEREAS, Since blindness is still frequently misunderstood, a
3 public education campaign, Meet the Blind Month, was developed
4 to create opportunities for people to learn firsthand that
5 individuals who are blind or visually impaired are like everyone
6 else; and

7 WHEREAS, The white cane symbolizes the ability of every blind
8 or visually impaired resident of this Commonwealth to achieve a
9 full and independent life; and

10 WHEREAS, The white cane allows every blind or visually
11 impaired person to move freely and safely from place to place
12 and without it such travel would be difficult and dangerous; and

13 WHEREAS, The white cane serves as a tangible reminder that
14 those who are blind or visually impaired are self-sufficient,
15 mobile and capable of participating in the life of their
16 communities and contributing to the success of our society; and

17 WHEREAS, In the first white cane proclamation issued in 1964,
18 President Lyndon B. Johnson commended blind and visually
19 impaired individuals for their growing spirit of independence
20 and their increased determination to be self-reliant and
21 dignified; and

22 WHEREAS, President Johnson also said that in our society the
23 white cane has become a unique symbol of a blind or visually
24 impaired person's ability to come and go independently and its
25 use has promoted courtesy and opportunity for mobility of people
26 who are blind on our streets and highways; and

27 WHEREAS, The white cane reminds us that when approaching a
28 blind or visually impaired person, we should always exercise
29 appropriate caution, especially if operating an automobile;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the National Federation of the Blind (NFB),
2 the Lions Club International and other organizations promote
3 events such as Meet the Blind Month in October and National and
4 International White Cane Safety Day on October 15 to promote
5 understanding of blindness and to learn more about those who are
6 blind or visually impaired and the efforts they make to lead
7 full and active lives; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
9 month of October 2015 as "Meet the Blind Month" in Pennsylvania,
10 recognize October 15, 2015, as "White Cane Safety Day" in
11 Pennsylvania, urge residents and communities in this
12 Commonwealth to participate in organized events and thank the
13 NFB, the Lions Club International and other organizations
14 involved in the observances for their efforts to promote
15 understanding of issues involving blindness and the people in
16 this Commonwealth who are blind or visually impaired and their
17 efforts to achieve their aspirations, hopes and full abilities
18 in society.