

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, FARINA, BISHOP, McCARTER, COHEN, DONATUCCI, O'BRIEN, READSHAW, V. BROWN, VEREB, DiGIROLAMO, MILLARD, BARBIN, HENNESSEY, McNEILL, PASHINSKI, LONGIETTI, ROZZI, KAVULICH, YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO, MAHONEY, GINGRICH, WATSON, KIRKLAND, GOODMAN, GIBBONS AND D. COSTA, APRIL 20, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 20, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 19 through 25, 2015, as  
 2 "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Family Centers are early childhood,  
 4 parent education and family support programs serving families  
 5 throughout pregnancy until children are five years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Family centers promote the protective factors that  
 7 keep families strong by increasing parent knowledge and  
 8 practices, providing early detection of developmental delays and  
 9 health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, increasing  
 10 children's school readiness and school success and increasing  
 11 family involvement in the community; and

12 WHEREAS, All young children and their families deserve the  
 13 same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic,  
 14 geographic or economic considerations; and

15 WHEREAS, Services are tailored to the needs of the

1 communities served; and

2 WHEREAS, Family centers serve 4,733 families with 6,843  
3 children enrolled in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting  
4 program and hundreds more families receive other supportive  
5 services; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth invests more than \$3 million of  
7 State funds in 43 family centers throughout this Commonwealth;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, More than 60% of Pennsylvania's population lives in  
10 the 28 counties served by family centers, of which half are  
11 rural and half are urban; and

12 WHEREAS, Sixty-five percent of the families served are  
13 considered high risk due to low educational attainment, poverty  
14 or disability; and

15 WHEREAS, Established and emerging research is the foundation  
16 of parent education and family support curricula, training,  
17 materials and services; and

18 WHEREAS, PAT is the evidence-based program used by all  
19 Pennsylvania Family Centers and PAT's vision is that all  
20 children will learn, grow and develop to reach their full  
21 potential; and

22 WHEREAS, PAT's mission is to provide the information, support  
23 and encouragement parents need to help children develop  
24 optimally during the crucial early years of life; and

25 WHEREAS, Family centers affirm the PAT value that parents are  
26 children's first and most influential teachers, and the early  
27 years of life are critical for optimal development and provide  
28 the foundation for success in school and life; and

29 WHEREAS, PAT is federally recognized as an evidence-based  
30 model program because it meets rigorous standards for

1 effectiveness; and

2 WHEREAS, Family centers, through their strength-based work  
3 with families, including the use of the PAT model, support  
4 families in achieving economic stability, healthy children in  
5 healthy homes and school readiness of children; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 week of April 19 through 25, 2015, as "Pennsylvania Family  
8 Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania.