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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 117 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, THOMAS,  
DRISCOLL, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, DUSH, SONNEY, WARREN, McNEILL,  
CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, WARD, PASHINSKI, BURNS, KINSEY, CORR,  
WATSON, READSHAW, NEILSON, BULLOCK, D. COSTA, O'BRIEN AND  
J. HARRIS, MARCH 6, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 6, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 22 through 29, 2017, as "National  
2 Infant Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and  
4 Prevention (CDC), state and local health departments, national  
5 immunization partners, health care professionals and public  
6 officials have observed "National Infant Immunization Week" to  
7 highlight the importance of vaccinations and call attention to  
8 achievements in immunizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Immunizations are among the most successful and  
10 cost-effective public health interventions for preventing  
11 disease and death in our communities; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the CDC, routine childhood  
13 immunizations in one birth cohort prevents approximately 20  
14 million cases of infectious disease and approximately 42,000  
15 deaths, saving \$13.5 billion in direct costs; and

16 WHEREAS, Immunizations reduce the risk of infection and life-

1 threatening diseases by working with the body's natural defenses  
2 to safely develop immunity to diseases; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2014, the CDC reported that, among children born  
4 between 1994 and 2013, vaccinations are expected to prevent an  
5 estimated 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and  
6 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetime; and

7 WHEREAS, Despite achievements in immunization, the United  
8 States Department of Health and Human Services reports that  
9 approximately 300 children die annually from vaccine-preventable  
10 diseases; and

11 WHEREAS, Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles,  
12 continue to appear in the United States and internationally,  
13 making continued vaccination necessary to protect our  
14 communities and public health; and

15 WHEREAS, Infants are particularly susceptible to infectious  
16 diseases; and

17 WHEREAS, Vaccinations are designed to provide immunity before  
18 exposure to life-threatening diseases occurs; and

19 WHEREAS, An estimated 12,000 babies are born in the United  
20 States each day, and they need to be immunized before two years  
21 of age to protect against 14 serious diseases, including, but  
22 not limited to, diphtheria, influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis  
23 (whooping cough), polio, rubella and varicella (chickenpox); and

24 WHEREAS, The immunization of infants and children, based on  
25 the childhood immunization schedule recommended by the CDC, is  
26 essential in providing the best protection to children;  
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 week of April 22 through 29, 2017, as "National Infant  
30 Immunization Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage  
2 parents, caregivers and health care professionals in this  
3 Commonwealth to participate in educational and media events to  
4 increase the awareness of the importance of immunizing children.