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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 174 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, K. BOYLE, MACKENZIE, COHEN, EVERETT,  
VEREB, FLYNN, DIGIROLAMO, B. BOYLE, V. BROWN, DONATUCCI,  
HEFFLEY, MILLARD, KORTZ, KIM, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, O'BRIEN,  
BISHOP, PICKETT, BAKER, KAVULICH, SCHLOSSBERG, BROWNLEE,  
LONGIETTI, KAUFFMAN, MAJOR, PARKER, MAHONEY, HACKETT,  
NEILSON, HARHAI, DeLUCA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, FLECK, PETRI,  
D. COSTA, HESS, DEASY, GIBBONS, THOMAS, SABATINA, ROSS, MOUL,  
KULA, ROEBUCK, FRANKEL, GINGRICH, MICOZZIE, GRELL, MARSHALL,  
SWANGER, WATSON, MARSICO, GROVE, MILNE, BOBACK, ROCK AND  
DENLINGER, MARCH 19, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 19, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2013 as "Intellectual  
2 Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of  
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a  
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are characterized by  
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are not mental illness;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational  
11 interventions that can cure intellectual disabilities, although  
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and  
13 adaptive functioning; and

1       WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities deserve  
2 and require lifelong support and services; and

3       WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead  
4 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,  
5 including intellectual disabilities and other developmental  
6 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an  
7 alternative to institutional care; and

8       WHEREAS, Almost 54,699 Pennsylvanians with intellectual  
9 disabilities received services and support in fiscal year 2012--  
10 2013; and

11       WHEREAS, More than 31,500 children, including significant  
12 numbers of children who have intellectual disabilities, received  
13 early intervention services in fiscal year 2012-2013 and an  
14 additional 15,335 individuals with intellectual disabilities  
15 continue to wait for services; and

16       WHEREAS, These services and support ensure that all citizens  
17 of this Commonwealth who have intellectual disabilities have the  
18 opportunity to participate in the range of life experiences we  
19 all enjoy in our homes and communities, such as inclusion in  
20 schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of worship; and

21       WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the  
22 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the  
23 services and support needed to meet the specific needs and  
24 abilities of people with intellectual disabilities; therefore be  
25 it

26       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the  
27 important role of public awareness and education in improving  
28 the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities and  
29 recognize the month of March 2013 as "Intellectual Disabilities  
30 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express  
2 appreciation to all those Pennsylvanians who conduct special  
3 outreach, education and services during the month of March and  
4 hereby urge the citizens of this Commonwealth to give year-round  
5 support to efforts which enable people with intellectual  
6 disabilities to live full and productive lives in our  
7 communities.