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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 195 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, FLICK, MADDEN, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS,  
HANBIDGE, BERNSTINE, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD AND  
SANCHEZ, AUGUST 30, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AUGUST 30, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2023 as "Spina Bifida Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spina bifida is a permanently disabling birth defect  
4 in which an area of the spinal column does not properly form and  
5 leaves a section of the spinal cord and nerves exposed in the  
6 back; and

7 WHEREAS, Neural tube defects such as spina bifida are the  
8 most common central nervous system birth defect, affecting  
9 approximately 1,600 babies born each year in the United States;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Spina bifida varies from person to person and can  
12 lead to many impairments, including partial paralysis, bladder  
13 and bowel disorders, allergies, learning disorders and social  
14 issues; and

15 WHEREAS, The exact cause of spina bifida is unknown, but it  
16 is suspected to be the result of genetic, nutritional and  
17 environmental factors; and

1       WHEREAS, Spina bifida can be diagnosed in prenatal tests and  
2 screenings, but, in some cases, might not be diagnosed until  
3 after the baby is born; and

4       WHEREAS, Studies have shown that women who add folic acid  
5 into their diets significantly reduce the risk of having a child  
6 with spina bifida; and

7       WHEREAS, It is therefore recommended that women who are  
8 pregnant or could get pregnant consume 400 micrograms of folic  
9 acid daily; and

10       WHEREAS, There is no cure for spina bifida, and babies with  
11 this condition often undergo surgery either in the womb or  
12 shortly after birth to close the defect and minimize the risk of  
13 infection; and

14       WHEREAS, Each person with spina bifida faces many different  
15 challenges and may require different treatments; and

16       WHEREAS, With help, children born with spina bifida can lead  
17 very active and full lives; and

18       WHEREAS, The Spina Bifida Association actively engages in  
19 advocacy and education efforts to raise national awareness of  
20 spina bifida and enhance the lives of children and adults  
21 affected by this birth defect; and

22       WHEREAS, "Spina Bifida Awareness Month" increases public  
23 awareness of this birth defect, acknowledges initiatives to  
24 further understand this condition and celebrates the 166,000  
25 Americans who live with the challenges of spina bifida;  
26 therefore be it

27       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
28 month of October 2023 as "Spina Bifida Awareness Month" in  
29 Pennsylvania.