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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 331 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, DONATUCCI, CUTLER, BISHOP, MILLARD, DAVIS,  
KILLION, READSHAW, MUSTIO, THOMAS, PICKETT, DiGIROLAMO,  
KIRKLAND, BROWNLEE, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, WHEELAND, DUSH,  
SONNEY, VEREB, CALTAGIRONE, BIZZARRO, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
WATSON, V. BROWN, O'NEILL, MAHONEY, FABRIZIO, ROSS, MILNE,  
HARHART, MARSICO, GOODMAN, D. COSTA, O'BRIEN, DeLUCA,  
YOUNGBLOOD, HEFFLEY, PAYNE, MATZIE AND GINGRICH, MAY 11, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 11, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 2015 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" and May 19,  
2 2015, as "Hepatitis Testing Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis is the inflammation of the liver caused by  
4 several viruses which could lead to liver cancer or other  
5 chronic liver diseases associated with hepatitis; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 15,000 Americans die from liver cancer  
7 or other chronic liver diseases every year; and

8 WHEREAS, New cases of liver cancer are highest among  
9 Americans of Asian or Pacific-Island descent and are increasing  
10 in African Americans, baby boomers and men; and

11 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections are a  
12 silent epidemic affecting more than 5 million Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne virus;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, An estimated 125,000 to 160,000 Pennsylvanians are

1 living with hepatitis C; and

2 WHEREAS, Although certain strands of hepatitis are  
3 preventable by a recommended vaccination, many individuals  
4 infected with hepatitis are unaware of their condition; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 75% of individuals infected with  
6 hepatitis C were born between 1945 and 1965; and

7 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
8 recommends a one-time screening test for hepatitis C for  
9 individuals born between 1945 and 1965 and routine screenings  
10 for those at high risk; and

11 WHEREAS, The CDC has designated May as "National Hepatitis  
12 Awareness Month" to highlight the serious damage hepatitis can  
13 cause to the liver of the many Americans unaware of their  
14 infection; and

15 WHEREAS, The CDC has designated May 19, 2015, as "National  
16 Hepatitis Testing Day" to increase screening and testing rates  
17 and reduce the burden of illness and death caused by hepatitis;  
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May  
20 2015 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" and May 19, 2015, as  
21 "Hepatitis Testing Day" in Pennsylvania and encourage residents  
22 of this Commonwealth to be tested for chronic viral hepatitis.