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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 489 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, COHEN,  
BISHOP, BOBACK, BIZZARRO, KOTIK, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KORTZ,  
LONGIETTI, KIM, PARKER, VEREB, SANTARSIERO, DAVIS, BROWNLEE,  
KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, MILLARD, MAHONEY, READSHAW,  
CALTAGIRONE, GINGRICH, ROSS, MAJOR, GODSHALL, KULA, PETRI,  
THOMAS, TALLMAN, EVERETT, GOODMAN, MIRABITO, ROCK, DeLUCA,  
MCNEILL, V. BROWN, QUINN, D. COSTA, FLECK AND MURT,  
OCTOBER 11, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 11, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 17, 2013, as "Lights on Afterschool! Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 28 million children in the United States  
4 have parents who work outside the home and more than 15 million  
5 children have no place to go after school; and

6 WHEREAS, Almost 1.3 million children who are 6 to 17 years of  
7 age in this Commonwealth have both parents in the work force or,  
8 in single-parent families, the sole parent in the work force;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Twenty-six percent of the nation's school-age  
11 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after  
12 school; and

13 WHEREAS, Out-of-school hours represent the "single biggest  
14 block of time" for children and youth and a key time during the

1 development of children into adolescents and adolescents into  
2 adults; and

3 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs provide safe, challenging,  
4 engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth  
5 develop academic, cultural, emotional, physical and social  
6 skills; and

7 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs support working families by  
8 ensuring that their children are safe and productive during out-  
9 of-school hours; and

10 WHEREAS, A recent national survey found that 52% of parents  
11 cite cost as a barrier to enrolling their children in  
12 afterschool programs; and

13 WHEREAS, Research illustrates that high-quality programming  
14 improves student achievement, reduces crime by and against  
15 children and youth and promotes positive social development; and

16 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs build stronger communities by  
17 involving parents, business leaders and student and adult  
18 volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting  
19 positive relationships among children, youth, families and  
20 adults; and

21 WHEREAS, Lights on Afterschool! Day is a national celebration  
22 of afterschool programs on October 17, 2013, that promotes the  
23 critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives  
24 of children, their families and their communities; therefore be  
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October  
27 17, 2013, as "Lights on Afterschool! Day" in Pennsylvania.