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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 359 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, BROWNE, KANE, COSTA,  
FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, STREET, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, BREWSTER,  
TARTAGLIONE AND STEFANO, OCTOBER 14, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 14, 2022

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 20, 2022, as "Lights on Afterschool Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth stand firmly  
4 committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities  
5 because these programs and opportunities:

6 (1) provide safe and engaging learning experiences that  
7 help children realize their full potential;

8 (2) support working families by ensuring that their  
9 children are safe and productive when they are out of their  
10 classrooms;

11 (3) build stronger communities by involving students,  
12 parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives  
13 of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships  
14 among youth, families and adults; and

15 (4) engage families, schools and community partners in  
16 advancing the welfare of our children;

17 and

1       WHEREAS, Afterschool programs have risen to the moment to  
2 support youth in addressing the social and academic needs as  
3 they recover from the pandemic; and

4       WHEREAS, Afterschool programs continue to provide innovative,  
5 hands-on opportunities for youth to reengage in their learning  
6 and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and  
7 supportive environment; and

8       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has provided significant  
9 leadership in the area of community involvement in the education  
10 and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that  
11 quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children  
12 become successful adults; and

13       WHEREAS, The National "Lights On Afterschool" celebration of  
14 afterschool programs, held this year on October 20, 2022,  
15 promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the  
16 lives of children, families and communities; and

17       WHEREAS, Nearly 25 million families report that they would  
18 enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were  
19 available; and

20       WHEREAS, For students in kindergarten through twelfth grade,  
21 more than 80% of their time is spent learning outside school  
22 during afterschool and summer programs, in libraries, museums  
23 and science centers or at home or in the community; and

24       WHEREAS, Afterschool programs engage students in hands-on,  
25 real world science, technology, engineering and mathematics  
26 (STEM) projects to help build vital 21st-century skills,  
27 cultivate an interest in STEM and offer innovative ways for  
28 students to connect STEM to their lives and community; and

29       WHEREAS, Many afterschool programs across the country are  
30 facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to

1 consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and  
2 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to investing in the  
3 health and safety of all young people by providing expanded  
4 learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow,  
5 while helping them develop the skills essential for success in  
6 life and work; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
8 General Assembly designate October 20, 2022, as "Lights On  
9 Afterschool Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly commit this Commonwealth  
11 to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that  
12 ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all  
13 children after school.