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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 82 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, WILEY, BAKER, HAYWOOD, TEPLITZ, ARGALL,  
SCARNATI, DINNIMAN AND VULAKOVICH, APRIL 20, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 20, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Lyme Disease Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted  
4 primarily by ticks and is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia*  
5 *burgdorferi*; and

6 WHEREAS, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and  
7 disorders, such as babesiosis, Bartonella and ehrlichiosis, pose  
8 a serious threat to the quality of life of many Pennsylvanians,  
9 with the frequency of diagnosed and reported Lyme disease cases  
10 increasing dramatically over the past several years; and

11 WHEREAS, The most recent 15-year surveillance study of the  
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which study  
13 was published in 2008, reveals continued emergence and  
14 geographic expansion of Lyme disease across the United States;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The CDC study reports a disproportionate increase  
17 among children and recommends a Public Health Action to call for  
18 an increase in targeted prevention strategies, tick avoidance,

1 early disease recognition and early treatment interventions; and

2 WHEREAS, In August 2013, the CDC released a report stating  
3 that preliminary estimates indicate approximately 300,000  
4 Americans are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year. This is  
5 approximately ten times higher than the number of cases  
6 previously reported to the CDC every year; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013, Pennsylvania ranked  
8 highest in the country in the number of confirmed cases of Lyme  
9 disease; and

10 WHEREAS, From 2002 to 2012, Pennsylvania reported a total of  
11 46,178 confirmed cases of Lyme disease; and

12 WHEREAS, The most common way to acquire Lyme and related  
13 diseases is to be bitten by a tick that carries the spirochete;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, This disease is not limited to age or ethnic  
16 boundaries; and

17 WHEREAS, Lyme disease can cause early symptoms, including a  
18 rash or flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches  
19 and fatigue, that can easily be misdiagnosed; and

20 WHEREAS, If not caught early, Lyme disease can lead to  
21 chronic debilitating illness that is very difficult to  
22 eradicate; and

23 WHEREAS, The prevention of Lyme disease and other tick-borne  
24 disorders is difficult; and

25 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce  
26 their chance of tick pathogen transmission if they take proper  
27 caution while engaged in outdoor activities from early spring  
28 through late fall, as well as during a warmer winter season, and  
29 make frequent tick checks and remove and dispose of ticks  
30 promptly and properly; and

1       WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce  
2 the risk of Lyme disease on their properties through landscape,  
3 insecticide and other measures found to be effective; and

4       WHEREAS, The schools of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce  
5 the risk of Lyme and related diseases among schoolchildren  
6 through prevention education and precautions, including  
7 instruction to parents regarding steps to take in advance and  
8 after school-related activities, such as field trips and sports;  
9 and

10       WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should be aware of  
11 early, disseminated and late/persistent symptoms; and

12       WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth should be aware that  
13 a negative Lyme test cannot rule out Lyme disease; and

14       WHEREAS, The early clinical diagnosis and appropriate  
15 treatment of these tick-borne disorders and diseases can greatly  
16 reduce the risks of continued, diverse and chronic symptoms that  
17 can affect every system and organ of the human body and often  
18 every aspect of persons' lives; therefore be it

19       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2015 as  
20 "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania in a continued  
21 effort to benefit the overall health and quality of life of the  
22 residents of this Commonwealth by increasing their awareness of  
23 the threat of infected tick bites and the potential seriousness  
24 of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disorders.