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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 228 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY WILEY, TEPLITZ, TOMLINSON, SABATINA, EICHELBERGER,  
BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, GREENLEAF AND BAKER,  
OCTOBER 21, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 21, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2015 as "Dyslexia Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Developmental Reading Disorder (DRD), or dyslexia,  
4 is a language-based learning disability that occurs when there  
5 is a problem in areas of the brain that help interpret language;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, DRD's symptoms include slow or inaccurate reading,  
8 poor spelling, poor writing or mixing up similar words; and

9 WHEREAS, Problems experienced by individuals with dyslexia  
10 may include:

11 (1) confusing letters or having difficulty learning the  
12 sounds that go with letters;

13 (2) having trouble learning how to speak or how to  
14 recognize words or determining the meaning of a simple  
15 sentence; or

16 (3) having trouble processing the sounds of language,  
17 such as rhyming;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Dyslexia can include disorganization of written and  
3 spoken language or struggles in comprehending and concentrating  
4 on longer reading assignments; and

5 WHEREAS, Dyslexia may also include difficulty in correctly  
6 performing math operations, memorizing number facts or learning  
7 a foreign language; and

8 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a specific information processing  
9 problem that does not interfere with one's ability to think or  
10 understand complex ideas; and

11 WHEREAS, Contrary to some beliefs, dyslexia is not caused by  
12 either a lack of desire to learn or substandard intelligence, as  
13 people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels have dyslexia,  
14 with the majority of individuals being of normal intelligence  
15 and many being above average in intelligence; and

16 WHEREAS, Students with dyslexia are likely to struggle with  
17 many aspects of academic learning, are at a higher risk of  
18 dropping out of school entirely and often go for years without  
19 being properly diagnosed; and

20 WHEREAS, Aside from problems in school, an individual with  
21 dyslexia can experience a loss of self-esteem and develop  
22 general reading problems that may persist into adulthood, which  
23 can then affect the individual's job performance; and

24 WHEREAS, According to the International Dyslexia Association,  
25 approximately 85% of students classified as having a primary  
26 learning disability have difficulty in reading and language  
27 processing; and

28 WHEREAS, The number of people having some symptoms of  
29 dyslexia is much higher, perhaps as much as 15% to 20% of the  
30 entire United States population as a whole; and

1       WHEREAS, There is much hope for students who are correctly  
2 diagnosed with this disorder, as they can and do learn  
3 successfully with appropriate teaching methods, and the earlier  
4 such diagnosis is made the better for the student; and

5       WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a disorder that often manifests itself  
6 among members of the same family; and

7       WHEREAS, Dyslexia affects individuals throughout their lives,  
8 however, its impact can change at different stages in a person's  
9 life; and

10       WHEREAS, Dyslexia is an often misunderstood language-based  
11 disability and a large percentage of residents of this  
12 Commonwealth experience one or more symptoms of this disorder;  
13 therefore be it

14       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2015  
15 as "Dyslexia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.