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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 824 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, READSHAW, ROZZI, DONATUCCI, KIRKLAND,  
VEREB, KILLION, BIZZARRO, KINSEY, WHEELAND, SCHLOSSBERG,  
COHEN, MARSICO, MURT, ROTHMAN, MILLARD, THOMAS, DAVIS, COOK-  
ARTIS, ROSS, DIGIROLAMO, CONKLIN, PAYNE, FREEMAN, BURNS,  
NEILSON, CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD AND BULLOCK, APRIL 25, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 25, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 17 through 23, 2016, as "Violence  
2 Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Anti-Violence Coalition (PAVC) is a  
4 new organization intended to effectively facilitate  
5 collaboration among diverse grassroots organizations to empower  
6 the community to increase peace in Philadelphia neighborhoods  
7 through activism, education, prevention/education programs and  
8 effective policy advocacy; and

9 WHEREAS, PAVC has developed a 10-point program to coordinate  
10 stakeholders and implement social, cultural, economic and policy  
11 goals to increase peace in Philadelphia neighborhoods; and

12 WHEREAS, Violence is a multifaceted phenomenon caused by a  
13 variety of factors; and

14 WHEREAS, Any success in preventing violence must be achieved  
15 by multifaceted efforts as echoed in "The World Report on  
16 Violence and Health," which states that it is important to

1 address not only individual factors leading to violence but also  
2 the social systems that shape individuals; and

3 WHEREAS, Philadelphia has a diverse range of organizations  
4 that work tirelessly within their communities to reduce  
5 violence, such as the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia,  
6 the Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network (PAAN), Mothers  
7 In Charge, House of Umoja, the Institute for the Development of  
8 African-American Youth (IDAAY), the Philadelphia Collaborative  
9 Violence Prevention Center and the Philadelphia Youth Violence  
10 Reduction Partnership; and

11 WHEREAS, Programs such as PAAN's Youth Violence Reduction  
12 Partnership (YVRP) have a proven track record of success in  
13 violence reduction when they receive adequate support; and

14 WHEREAS, Philadelphia has the highest deep-poverty rate among  
15 America's 10 largest cities and has endured 67 murders and 450  
16 assaults with firearms in the first several months of 2016; and

17 WHEREAS, The rate of violent crime in Pennsylvania was 314  
18 per 100,000 in 2014, with more than 40,000 incidents of violent  
19 crime Statewide, concentrated in our urban areas; and

20 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is grateful to every individual and  
21 organization dedicated to changing our communities for the  
22 better by working to reduce violence through activism,  
23 education, prevention/education programs and effective policy  
24 advocacy; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
26 week of April 17 through 23, 2016, as "Violence Prevention Week"  
27 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 work of community-based organizations in the ongoing effort to  
30 prevent violence and encourage all residents of this

- 1 Commonwealth to reject violence and resolve conflicts
- 2 peacefully.