THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1043 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, BURNS, HILL-EVANS, HENNESSEY, HELM, SCHLEGEL CULVER, RYAN, MURT, MACKENZIE, SONNEY, READSHAW, ULLMAN, BROWN, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, MILLARD, GREEN, KORTZ, BROOKS, DRISCOLL, MOUL, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, WARREN AND NEILSON, OCTOBER 7, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 7, 2020

A RESOLUTION

- Designating the month of November 2020 as "Family Caregiver Month" in Pennsylvania.
- 3 WHEREAS, More than 1.8 million family caregivers in this
- 4 Commonwealth provide almost \$20 billion in uncompensated care
- 5 annually to their loved ones; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are relatives who, in addition to
- 7 working full time themselves, spend an average of more than 20
- 8 hours per week providing unpaid care to a parent, spouse or
- 9 other adult relative at home; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Family caregivers provide assistance with daily
- 11 activities such as cooking, cleaning, bathing, medical care
- 12 adherence monitoring and transportation to appointments; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The assistance provided by family caregivers often
- 14 supplements other home and community-based services offered by
- 15 professional care providers to keep the family together at home;
- 16 and

- 1 WHEREAS, Family caregivers save the Commonwealth more than
- 2 \$37,000 per person per year in medical assistance spending by
- 3 keeping their loved ones at home rather than in a nursing
- 4 facility; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are at high risk for health
- 6 problems themselves, ranging from chronic pain such as headaches
- 7 and backaches to weakened immune systems, from the stress of
- 8 caring for another person full time; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Family caregivers are also at higher risk for
- 10 depression, emotional problems and cognitive issues, with as
- 11 many as 70% of family caregivers showing clinical symptoms of
- 12 depression; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The out-of-pocket expenses for family caregivers can
- 14 be on average \$7,400 per year; therefore be it
- 15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
- 16 month of November 2020 as "Family Caregiver Month" in
- 17 Pennsylvania; and be it further
- 18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
- 19 family caregivers work hard each day, put the needs of their
- 20 loved ones ahead of their own and keep families together at home
- 21 where they most want to be.