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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 123 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BURNS, KINSEY, RYAN, KORTZ, HARKINS, HENNESSEY,  
LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, MATZIE,  
THOMAS, MURT, CALTAGIRONE, NEILSON, READSHAW, KIRKLAND,  
FREEMAN, McCLINTON, MARKOSEK AND MULLINS, MARCH 8, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 8, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2019 as "Occupational Therapy  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Occupational therapy practitioners uniquely assess  
4 and intervene to enable clients to fully participate in their  
5 chosen daily activities, maintain employment or return to work;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Through client-centered assessments, integrated  
8 approaches to plans of care and application of practitioners'  
9 innovative clinical skills, individuals can overcome the effects  
10 of illness, injury or any other condition, including cognitive  
11 impairment, that might otherwise prevent them from living life  
12 to its fullest; and

13 WHEREAS, A medical model for the clinical practice of  
14 occupational therapy emerged during World War I when, in 1917,  
15 the Division of Special Hospitals and Physical Reconstruction  
16 was established; and

1       WHEREAS, The War Department approved the employment of  
2 civilian women known as reconstruction aides, who were  
3 designated as employees at large of the Medical Department of  
4 the United States Army; and

5       WHEREAS, Working as occupational therapists, occupational  
6 therapy aides, teachers, artists and craftspersons,  
7 reconstruction aides provided comprehensive care for injured  
8 soldiers; and

9       WHEREAS, Occupational therapy educational programs have been  
10 accredited since 1935; and

11       WHEREAS, Practicing in many ways and in many arenas,  
12 occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants  
13 enable clients to adapt and interact within their home or work  
14 environment; and

15       WHEREAS, Hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, home health  
16 agencies, schools, clinics, psychiatric facilities, community-  
17 based service centers and nursing homes offer occupational  
18 therapy services in this Commonwealth; and

19       WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of experienced occupational  
20 therapists are transitioning into private practice; and

21       WHEREAS, Some occupational therapists work solely with  
22 specific disabilities or with certain age groups; and

23       WHEREAS, Specialties include alcoholism, drug abuse, eating  
24 disorders, mental health and industry-specific injury and pain  
25 management; and

26       WHEREAS, The American Occupational Therapy Association has  
27 identified six emerging niches in the field; and

28       WHEREAS, A broader scope of practice related to children and  
29 youths in school includes social participation and mental health  
30 programs for students at risk for bullying and transition

1 services for older youths with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, Wellness-related services include prevention and  
3 management of chronic disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Productive aging focuses on maintaining function and  
5 independence; and

6 WHEREAS, Rehabilitation, disability and participation is a  
7 key practice enabling individuals to pursue meaningful  
8 activities regardless of condition or setting; and

9 WHEREAS, Work and industry facilitates work tasks and  
10 addresses adverse work conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, The effective use of health care resources,  
12 including the skilled interventions of occupational therapists  
13 and occupational therapy assistants, enables individuals to  
14 compensate for functional loss or restore functional capacity  
15 while promoting client-centered goals of wellness and  
16 productivity; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Occupational Therapy Association and  
18 the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association are observing  
19 the month of April 2019 as "Occupational Therapy Month";  
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
22 month of April 2019 as "Occupational Therapy Month" in  
23 Pennsylvania.