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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 319 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, FERLO, DINNIMAN, STACK, ERICKSON,  
WASHINGTON, GREENLEAF, BROWNE, RAFFERTY, FONTANA AND SOLOBAY,  
MARCH 12, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 12, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 9 through 15, 2014, as "Glaucoma  
2 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually  
4 steals sight without warning through damage to the optic nerve  
5 and for which there is no cure, although once diagnosed,  
6 medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness  
9 according to the World Health Organization, with over 60 million  
10 suspected cases worldwide; and

11 WHEREAS, Over 2.2 million Americans have glaucoma, but half  
12 of those do not even know they have it and more than 120,000  
13 Americans are blind due to glaucoma; and

14 WHEREAS, Those most at risk of glaucoma are those of African,  
15 Asian and Hispanic descent, people 60 years of age or older,  
16 family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics and people  
17 who are severely near-sighted; and

1       WHEREAS, After cataracts, glaucoma is the leading cause of  
2 blindness among African Americans, with blindness from glaucoma  
3 six to eight times more common in African Americans than  
4 Caucasians and with African Americans 15 times more likely to be  
5 visually impaired from glaucoma than Caucasians; and

6       WHEREAS, The mission of the Glaucoma Service Foundation to  
7 Prevent Blindness is to preserve or enhance the health of all  
8 people with glaucoma and to provide a model of medical care by  
9 supporting the innovative educational and research efforts of  
10 the physicians on the Wills Eye Hospital Glaucoma Service, the  
11 largest glaucoma diagnosis and treatment center in the United  
12 States; and

13       WHEREAS, On April 26, 2014, "Glaucoma Screening and  
14 Information Day," the Glaucoma Service Foundation to Prevent  
15 Blindness will hold its important annual day-long, patient-  
16 directed educational conference about glaucoma called the "CARES  
17 Conference" (Committed to Awareness through Research, Education,  
18 and Support) at the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building at Jefferson  
19 Hospital, 1001 Locust Street, Philadelphia; therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of March 9  
21 through 15, 2014, as "Glaucoma Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania;  
22 and be it further

23       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
24 the Glaucoma Service Foundation to Prevent Blindness, Wills Eye  
25 Hospital, 840 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107,  
26 as evidence of the respect and admiration of this legislative  
27 body for those who work to prevent blindness and who serve those  
28 who suffer from glaucoma.