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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 491 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, OCTOBER 26, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 26, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2016 as "Carbon Monoxide  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is produced by furnaces, common  
4 household appliances, vehicles, generators, fireplaces and other  
5 systems that are powered by the burning of fuel, including  
6 natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil and wood; and

7 WHEREAS, November is the best time to raise awareness for  
8 carbon monoxide poisoning as the threat of exposure increases as  
9 people stay indoors and burn more fuel to heat their homes  
10 during the winter months; and

11 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as "the silent killer"  
12 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas  
13 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

14 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and  
15 Prevention found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in  
16 accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

17 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has  
18 determined that carbon monoxide claims approximately 50 lives

1 each year and that carbon monoxide exposure sends more than  
2 20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

3 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic has determined that 51% of all  
4 carbon monoxide poisoning cases reported involve children 6  
5 years of age or younger; and

6 WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission has  
7 determined that older adults more frequently have pre-existing  
8 health conditions that affect the heart, lungs and circulatory  
9 system, and the presence of one or more of these conditions  
10 lowers a victim's tolerance and increases the risk of fatal  
11 carbon monoxide exposure; and

12 WHEREAS, A January 2006 article in the *Journal of the*  
13 *American Medical Association* showed that, for individuals who  
14 were involved in carbon monoxide poisoning and survived, there  
15 was a three-fold increase in coronary artery disease seven years  
16 later when compared with patients who were not poisoned; and

17 WHEREAS, The Carbon Monoxide Safety Association has  
18 determined that the combined medical cost of carbon monoxide  
19 accidents, lost productivity and lost wages amounts to \$8.8  
20 billion per year; and

21 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide  
22 poisonings are critical to protecting residents of Pennsylvania  
23 from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the  
24 home; and

25 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined to be  
26 the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide; and

27 WHEREAS, There is a dramatic correlation between cities with  
28 carbon monoxide alarm ordinances and lower death rates from  
29 carbon monoxide poisoning; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of November

1 2016 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.