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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 97 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, SCHWANK, BROWNE,  
AUMENT, DINNIMAN, MUTH, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, BAKER,  
BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, HUTCHINSON, MARTIN AND J. WARD,  
APRIL 30, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 30, 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

17 WHEREAS, The War Department approved the employment of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2019  
21 as "Occupational Therapy Month" in Pennsylvania.