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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 136 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN,  
SCHLOSSBERG, BRENNAN, KHAN, DELLOSO, FLEMING, HADDOCK,  
SANCHEZ AND HOWARD, JUNE 2, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 2, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 8 through 14, 2023, as  
2 "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Awareness Week" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Equally affecting individuals from all races,  
5 ethnicities and backgrounds, obsessive compulsive disorder is a  
6 mental illness involving a continuing cycle of obsessions and  
7 compulsions; and

8 WHEREAS, Obsessions are unwanted, recurring and intrusive  
9 thoughts that typically elicit distressing feelings; and

10 WHEREAS, Compulsions are excessive and repetitive behaviors  
11 undertaken to mitigate distress that results from obsessions;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that genetic predisposition and  
14 an inability for certain brain cells to communicate with one  
15 another contribute to obsessive compulsive disorder, though a  
16 precise cause of the disorder is unknown; and

17 WHEREAS, Licensed mental health professionals diagnose  
18 obsessive compulsive disorder when an individual experiences

1 both obsessions and compulsions that interfere with other  
2 important life activities; and

3 WHEREAS, Obsessive compulsive disorder can begin at any age,  
4 but typically first appears between 10 and 12 years of age, in  
5 the late teenage years or early adulthood; and

6 WHEREAS, One in 40 adults are diagnosed with obsessive  
7 compulsive disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, One in 100 children in the United States have  
9 obsessive compulsive disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3% of Americans will struggle with  
11 obsessive compulsive disorder at some point in their lifetime;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with obsessive compulsive disorder  
14 grapple with the disorder in varying degrees of severity with  
15 50.6% experiencing severe impairment, 34.8% experiencing  
16 moderate impairment and 14.6% experiencing mild impairment; and

17 WHEREAS, An average of 14 to 17 years elapse between the time  
18 an individual begins experiencing symptoms of obsessive  
19 compulsive disorder until the time they receive appropriate  
20 treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, The majority of individuals suffering from obsessive  
22 compulsive disorder benefit from a combination of therapy and  
23 medicine; and

24 WHEREAS, First recognized in 2009, "Obsessive Compulsive  
25 Disorder Awareness Week" occurs in the second week of October  
26 each year and is an international effort to increase awareness  
27 and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder; and

28 WHEREAS, Through raising awareness, "Obsessive Compulsive  
29 Disorder Awareness Week" seeks to help individuals receive  
30 appropriate and effective treatment for the disorder; therefore

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
3 week of October 8 through 14, 2023, as "Obsessive Compulsive  
4 Disorder Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives raise awareness  
6 and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder while  
7 acknowledging the importance of timely access to effective  
8 treatment.