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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 349 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL, PICKETT, JOZWIAK, KINSEY, NEILSON,  
MIHALEK, DALEY AND DIAMOND, MARCH 25, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 25, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2024 as "Retinal Blindness  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Retinal diseases can affect any part of the retina;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, There are multiple retinal diseases that can result  
6 in blindness, including Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP); and

7 WHEREAS, RP is a group of rare eye diseases that make light-  
8 detecting cells in the retina break down over time; and

9 WHEREAS, RP is a genetic degenerative condition that causes  
10 progressive vision loss and usually develops in childhood or  
11 adolescence; and

12 WHEREAS, The rate of progression and degree of vision loss  
13 varies by individual and depends on the form of the condition;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Mutations in many different genes are known to cause  
16 RP; and

17 WHEREAS, An estimated 100,000 people in the United States  
18 suffer from RP, which makes RP the most common type of inherited

1 eye disease; and

2 WHEREAS, One of the earliest signs of RP is night blindness,  
3 which is often followed by loss of peripheral vision; and

4 WHEREAS, Other symptoms can include loss of central vision,  
5 loss of color perception and sensitivity to bright light; and

6 WHEREAS, Severe cases of RP can lead to legal or complete  
7 blindness; and

8 WHEREAS, Though uncommon, RP can occur as part of other  
9 conditions, including Usher syndrome and Bardet-Biedl syndrome;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Regular eye exams are important to detect and  
12 monitor early symptoms of RP; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to the variety of genetic mutations associated  
14 with RP, there is no single treatment for the disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Genetic testing can help with attaining an accurate  
16 diagnosis by determining the exact mutation causing RP; and

17 WHEREAS, An individual with an accurate diagnosis is in a  
18 better position to understand which emerging treatment options  
19 may be appropriate for the individual's condition; and

20 WHEREAS, Some medications and supplements can be useful in  
21 treating certain forms of RP; and

22 WHEREAS, Low vision aids and rehabilitation programs can  
23 improve visual performance and help people living with RP learn  
24 to manage their condition; and

25 WHEREAS, Researchers are studying new gene therapies,  
26 medications and treatments to prevent and reverse vision loss  
27 caused by different forms of RP; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 month of April 2024 as "Retinal Blindness Awareness Month" in  
30 Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
2 need to increase awareness and understanding of RP and to  
3 support early diagnosis and improved treatment of RP.