
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 664 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, READSHAW, MCNEILL, NEILSON, CALTAGIRONE,
MIRABITO, KORTZ, COHEN, SONNEY, KIM, KOTIK, THOMAS, CONKLIN,
BISHOP, DAVIS, VEREB, MENTZER, KIRKLAND, STERN, BIZZARRO,
MUSTIO, MACKENZIE, SCHLOSSBERG, KAVULICH, MCGEEHAN, FLYNN,
KNOWLES, REGAN, MURT, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, BROWNLEE, PETRI,
GRELL, D. MILLER, PICKETT, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROCK, RAPP,
V. BROWN, MAHONEY, MARSICO, KAUFFMAN, LUCAS, HENNESSEY,
DIGIROLAMO, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HARHART, TURZAI, GINGRICH,
GROVE, WATSON, KINSEY, SWANGER, BAKER, HEFFLEY, O'NEILL,
FRANKEL, CLYMER, GILLEN, D. COSTA, ROSS, PAINTER,
M. K. KELLER, FARINA AND MAJOR, FEBRUARY 26, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 26, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2014 as "Intellectual
2 Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are characterized by
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are not mental illness;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational
11 interventions that can cure intellectual disabilities, although
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and
13 adaptive functioning; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities deserve
2 and require lifelong support and services; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead
4 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,
5 including intellectual disabilities and other developmental
6 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an
7 alternative to institutional care; and

8 WHEREAS, Almost 55,230 Pennsylvanians with intellectual
9 disabilities received services and support in fiscal year 2013-
10 2014; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 37,800 children, including significant
12 numbers of children who have intellectual disabilities, received
13 early intervention services in fiscal year 2013-2014 and an
14 additional 14,801 individuals with intellectual disabilities
15 continue to wait for services; and

16 WHEREAS, These services and support ensure that all citizens
17 of this Commonwealth who have intellectual disabilities have the
18 opportunity to participate in the range of life experiences we
19 all enjoy in our homes and communities, such as inclusion in
20 schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of worship; and

21 WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the
22 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the
23 services and support needed to meet the specific needs and
24 abilities of people with intellectual disabilities; therefore be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
27 important role of public awareness and education in improving
28 the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities and
29 recognize the month of March 2014 as "Intellectual Disabilities
30 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express
2 appreciation to all those Pennsylvanians who conduct special
3 outreach, education and services during the month of March and
4 hereby urge the citizens of this Commonwealth to give year-round
5 support to efforts which enable people with intellectual
6 disabilities to live full and productive lives in our
7 communities.