
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 533 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, B. BOYLE, BRIGGS, BISHOP, O'NEILL, MUNDY,
O'BRIEN, MCNEILL, CLAY, KOTIK, KORTZ, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
READSHAW, MURT, M. DALEY, FLECK AND THOMAS, OCTOBER 23, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 23, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Discouraging the use of the "N" word.

2 WHEREAS, The word "nigger" stems from the Latin word "niger"
3 meaning the color black; and

4 WHEREAS, The "N" word when used as a noun derogatorily refers
5 to a person of color; and

6 WHEREAS, The "N" word has traditionally been used as a word
7 of hate and victimization toward African Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, The "N" word, considered to be the ultimate racial
9 slur, has offended and disparaged African Americans and other
10 ethnic groups; and

11 WHEREAS, The "N" word was used by slavemasters, dating from
12 1786 in reference to African slaves, to denote chattel and has a
13 context of hatred, oppression and violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Civil rights pioneer Booker T. Washington advocated
15 the use of the word "Negro," instead of the epithetical "N"
16 word, to refer to persons of African descent; and

17 WHEREAS, The "N" word connotes an individual who is ignorant,

1 slow, does not speak proper English and who is the property of
2 another, as cemented by the portrayal of African Americans in
3 19th and early 20th century art and literature; and

4 WHEREAS, The "N" word tears down the esteem and destroys the
5 spirit of persons at whom it is directed; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the civil rights era, civil
7 rights leaders such as Rosa Parks, the Reverend Dr. Martin
8 Luther King, Jr., Julian Bond, Dr. John Davis, Malcolm X, the
9 Reverend Jesse Jackson, Justice Thurgood Marshall and Booker T.
10 Washington have given their blood, sweat and tears to destroy
11 the badges and the incidence of slavery; and

12 WHEREAS, The African-American community remains divided on
13 the use of the "N" word in modern discourse; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2003, the National Association for the
15 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) successfully influenced
16 Merriam-Webster lexicographers to change the definition of the
17 word to reflect the degradation and disgrace associated with it;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a long and
20 proud history of being at the forefront of civil rights, dating
21 back to its founding by William Penn; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives discourage the
23 use of the "N" word and join in declaring a symbolic moratorium
24 on the use of the "N" word and all its variants in this
25 Commonwealth.