

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 370 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, SABATINA,  
FONTANA, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, FARNESE, TEPLITZ,  
WHITE, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK AND COSTA, MAY 16, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 16, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 15 through June 15, 2016, as "Tourette Syndrome  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children between 6 and  
4 17 years of age in the United States are diagnosed with Tourette  
5 syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic condition which has no  
6 cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome is a lifelong developmental  
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age  
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are affected by  
12 tics, which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or  
13 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face periodic  
15 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these  
16 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome frequently have

1 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and  
2 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention  
3 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,  
4 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,  
5 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are frequently  
7 misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and  
8 even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing  
9 symptoms which at times seem controllable; and

10 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome has historically been  
11 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional  
12 disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often teased  
14 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

15 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette syndrome are often  
16 disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators  
17 who fail to understand the child's inability to control his or  
18 her tics and that the child may be delayed in his or her  
19 maturity and emotional responses; and

20 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face  
21 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,  
22 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their  
23 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

24 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with  
25 Disabilities Act to disregard disability when hiring or  
26 promoting employees and to make accommodations to support  
27 employees with Tourette syndrome so the employees can be  
28 successful in the workplace and not be forced to file for  
29 disability; and

30 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often very

1 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when  
2 given the proper support; and

3 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, however,  
4 many employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these  
5 accommodations for individuals with Tourette syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,  
7 promotes awareness and provides support and advocacy for  
8 individuals with Tourette syndrome in this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder helps guarantee hope for  
10 acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette  
11 syndrome; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 15 through June 15,  
13 2016, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania in  
14 recognition of the needs of individuals with Tourette syndrome;  
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents to support the  
17 need for awareness and education regarding Tourette syndrome in  
18 order to assist those individuals and families who deal with  
19 this neurobiological syndrome every day of their lives.