

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, BAKER, BOBACK, B. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HESS, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, D. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PYLE, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND WHITE, APRIL 25, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 25, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2011, 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 and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition which has no 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

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face periodic
2 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these
3 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have
5 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and
6 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention
7 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,
8 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,
9 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are frequently
11 misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and
12 even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing
13 symptoms which at times seem controllable; and

14 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome has historically been
15 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional
16 disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often teased
18 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

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

24 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face
25 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
26 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
27 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

28 WHEREAS, Schools are required to make accommodations to
29 support their students with Tourette Syndrome to be successful
30 in their education program, but many schools often focus only on

1 the behavioral or emotional component of the disorder and fail
2 to notice learning disabilities, sensory integration needs,
3 handwriting issues and organizational issues as being related to
4 Tourette Syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very
6 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
7 given the proper support; and

8 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
9 Disabilities Act (ADA) to disregard disability in hiring or
10 promotions and to make accommodations to support their employees
11 with Tourette Syndrome so the employees can be successful in the
12 workplace and not be forced to file for disability; and

13 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, but many
14 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these
15 accommodations for individuals with Tourette Syndrome; and

16 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
17 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
18 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this
19 Commonwealth; and

20 WHEREAS, Understanding this illness will help guarantee hope
21 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
22 Syndrome; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
24 needs of these individuals with neurological impairment and
25 recognize May 15 through June 15, 2011, as "Tourette Syndrome
26 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all citizens to
27 support the need for awareness and education regarding Tourette
28 Syndrome in order to assist those individuals and families who
29 deal with this neurobiological syndrome every day of their
30 lives.