

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 602 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, FONTANA, WASHINGTON, FERLO, BOSCOLA,
WILLIAMS AND TARTAGLIONE, MARCH 12, 2009

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 12, 2009

AN ACT

1 Establishing March 13 as "Acceptance Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Researchers at San Fransisco State University have
3 determined that how parents react to being told their child is
4 gay has a major impact on the child's future mental health and
5 self-esteem; and

6 WHEREAS, The study showed, more specifically, that teens and
7 young adults who receive negative feedback when coming out to
8 their parents are eight times more likely to attempt suicide,
9 six times more likely to suffer severe depression and three
10 times more likely to use illegal drugs than those who receive
11 acceptance and compassion from their parents; and

12 WHEREAS, Many parents are unaware of the importance of not
13 rejecting a child who is homosexual, and it is in the best
14 interests of this Commonwealth that such understanding be
15 fostered; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That March 13 be established as "Acceptance Day" in
17 Pennsylvania.

1 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

2 hereby enacts as follows:

3 Section 1. Acceptance Day.

4 March 13 of each year is hereby established as "Acceptance
5 Day" in Pennsylvania.

6 Section 2. Proclamation.

7 The Governor shall issue annually his proclamation
8 designating and setting apart March 13 as "Acceptance Day" and
9 calling upon the citizens and residents of this Commonwealth,
10 especially parents, to reflect on the importance of accepting
11 all persons regardless of their sexual orientation and to
12 reflect on the negative impact of ostracism.

13 Section 3. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.