

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 66 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY STEVENSON, BRIGGS, HENNESSEY, NEUMAN, MUSTIO, CALTAGIRONE, CONKLIN, CAUSER, BROWNLEE, KNOWLES, MCNEILL, MILLARD, KAUFFMAN, DIGIROLAMO, O'BRIEN, RAPP, HARHART, VEREB, DAVIS, MICOZZIE, SONNEY, HARKINS, ROZZI, MAHONEY, CUTLER, O'NEILL, HICKERNELL, GODSHALL, BOBACK, HAHN, SANTARSIERO, HARHAI, SWANGER, TALLMAN, MILLER, CLYMER, AUMENT, GINGRICH, LONGIETTI, EMRICK, MATZIE, COHEN, PETRI, KINSEY, PICKETT, FARINA, MAJOR, MILNE, GRELL, BAKER, YOUNGBLOOD, FRANKEL, EVERETT, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KORTZ, GABLER, HACKETT, WATSON, READSHAW, ROSS, HESS, ROCK, GOODMAN, MARSICO, DELOZIER, DELUCA, GILLEN, MURT, PARKER AND MCCARTER, FEBRUARY 5, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, FEBRUARY 5, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2013 as "Brain Injury Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury is an injury to the brain
7 secondary to trauma, stroke, postsurgical complications,
8 aneurysm, high fever, infection, near drowning, near
9 suffocation, near electrocution, poisoning and other conditions
10 which interfere with delivery of blood or oxygen to the brain;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, There are approximately 10 million Americans living

1 with acquired brain injury, including stroke; and

2 WHEREAS, Brain injury due to trauma may be caused by a direct
3 blow to the head or being shaken violently and may be caused by
4 falls, motor vehicle crashes, bicycle accidents, sports and
5 recreation injuries, shaken baby syndrome, gunshot wounds and
6 assaults; and

7 WHEREAS, The signs and symptoms of traumatic brain injury can
8 be subtle and may not appear until days or weeks after the
9 injury or may even be missed; and

10 WHEREAS, Mild traumatic brain injury is often underdiagnosed
11 or misdiagnosed, with symptoms not always immediately apparent;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of
14 disability and death from birth to 40 years of age; and

15 WHEREAS, The cost of treating, rehabilitating and caring for
16 the victims of traumatic brain injury in the United States is
17 approximately \$30 billion each year; and

18 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
19 estimate that 25% to 87% of inmates have a history of traumatic
20 brain injury; and

21 WHEREAS, A study found that 20% of the juvenile justice
22 population has been unconscious for 20 minutes or more due to a
23 traumatic brain injury; and

24 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are from 50,000 to
25 125,000 mild traumatic brain injuries (i.e., concussions)
26 resulting from sports and recreation accidents in Pennsylvania
27 every year; and

28 WHEREAS, Nationally, children and youth 5 to 18 years of age
29 accounted for approximately 2.4 million sports-related emergency
30 visits for traumatic brain injury annually; and

1 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all brain injuries are
2 concussions from trauma, affecting more than 47,000
3 Pennsylvanians; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 130,000 Pennsylvanians are living with a
5 long-term disability resulting from traumatic brain injury; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 50,000 Pennsylvanians are treated and
7 released from emergency rooms for traumatic brain injury
8 annually; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 32,000 Pennsylvania children under 21
10 years of age have a medical history that includes a
11 hospitalization for traumatic brain injury; and

12 WHEREAS, Brain injury is the signature injury of those
13 military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of the leading
15 research centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for
16 Brain Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the
17 Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma
18 Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center
19 for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of
20 Philadelphia; and

21 WHEREAS, Three organizations in this Commonwealth
22 specifically devoted to brain injury include the Brain Injury
23 Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., the Acquired Brain Injury
24 Network of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Brain Injury
25 Coalition, and two organizations with a strong focus on brain
26 injury include the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania and
27 the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; and

28 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has agencies with a specific focus
29 on brain injury, including the Department of Health Traumatic
30 Brain Injury Advisory Board; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has several government programs
2 that administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and
3 community support programs, including the Department of Health
4 Head Injury Program and the Office of Long Term Living CommCare
5 Waiver program; and

6 WHEREAS, The best approach to the silent epidemic of brain
7 injury is to promote the awareness, prevention and treatment of
8 brain injuries; and

9 WHEREAS, Brain injury prevention and access to necessary
10 treatment and services can be promoted through community
11 education and a public awareness campaign; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
13 month of March 2013 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in
14 Pennsylvania; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
16 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut
17 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; to the Disability
18 Rights Network of Pennsylvania, 1414 North Cameron Street, Suite
19 C, Harrisburg, PA 17103; to the Acquired Brain Injury Network of
20 Pennsylvania, 2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446; and to
21 the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, 2400
22 Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110.