
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, ROZZI, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS,
LONGIETTI, HENNESSEY, PASHINSKI, MURT, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,
NEILSON, SOLOMON, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD AND KINSEY,
APRIL 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2017 as "National Minority Health
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services
4 released the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health
5 Equity and the Disparities Action Plan to reduce health care
6 disparities in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, A recent analysis estimates that the economy of the
8 United States loses an estimated \$309 billion a year due to the
9 direct and indirect costs of health disparities; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Human Services
11 identified six main categories in which racial and ethnic
12 minorities experience the greatest disparity access to health
13 care and health outcomes, including infant mortality, cancer
14 screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV
15 and AIDS infection and immunizations; and

16 WHEREAS, African-American women are more than twice as likely

1 to die of cervical cancer than Caucasian women and are more
2 likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or
3 ethnic group; and

4 WHEREAS, The rate of death from coronary heart disease is 30%
5 higher among African Americans than among Caucasians; and

6 WHEREAS, The death rate from stroke is 50% higher among
7 African Americans than among Caucasians; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2012, native Hawaiians had more than twice the
9 rate of medically diagnosed diabetes, as compared to non-
10 Hispanic Caucasians living in Hawaii and were 5.7 times more
11 likely to die of diabetes; and

12 WHEREAS, Compared to non-Hispanic Caucasian men, African-
13 American men are 9.5 times more likely to die of AIDS and
14 Hispanic men are 2.5 times more likely to die of AIDS; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Human Services has
16 identified heart disease malignant neoplasm, unintentional
17 injuries, diabetes and cerebrovascular disease as some of the
18 leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska
19 Natives; and

20 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives die at higher
21 rates than other people in the United States from tuberculosis,
22 diabetes, unintentional injuries and suicide; and

23 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life
24 expectancy that is 4.4 years shorter than the life expectancy of
25 the overall population of the United States; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 month of April 2017 as "National Minority Health Month" in
28 Pennsylvania to address health disparities and promote
29 sustainable improvement in the health status of all residents of
30 this Commonwealth.