

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 381 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BAKER, BEYER, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CRUZ, P. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, GEIST, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SANTONI, SEIP, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND DAY, JUNE 25, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 25, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating graduates of the Pennsylvania Empowered Expert
2 Residents (PEER) Project and recognizing Friday, June 26,
3 2009, as "Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEER) Day"
4 in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Aging administers the Long-Term
6 Care Ombudsman Program Statewide for consumers 60 years of age
7 or older, and the department partners with the 52 local Area
8 Agencies on Aging in this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, The ombudsman program supports and empowers
10 consumers to resolve individual complaints involving long-term
11 care services and also works to improve and enhance the long-
12 term care system, its laws, regulations, policies and
13 administration through public education and empowerment; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the first state nationwide to
15 creatively include a resident dimension within its ombudsman
16 program to support individuals living in long-term care

1 facilities and to educate residents and staff on resident rights
2 in the 84 facilities across this Commonwealth where they reside;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEER)
5 Project offers an additional mechanism to equip residents with
6 the knowledge to enable them to be a part of the solution; and

7 WHEREAS, The PEER Project was developed to train resident
8 advocates to work from within the respective long-term care
9 facilities where they reside to enhance the quality of care and
10 quality of life; and

11 WHEREAS, PEER Project graduates volunteer their time and
12 expertise to self-advocate issues that resonate among their
13 peers; and

14 WHEREAS, The PEER Project, working with and supporting local
15 ombudsman programs in counties throughout this Commonwealth has
16 grown since its inception in June 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, The PEER Project has graduated more than 650
18 residents in long-term care facilities in the following 29
19 counties: Cambria, Chester, Clearfield, Columbia, Montour, Elk,
20 Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lebanon, Luzerne, Wyoming, Lycoming,
21 Mercer, Mifflin, Juniata, Montgomery, Perry, Schuylkill,
22 Crawford, Warren, McKean, Potter, Forest, Cameron, Sullivan,
23 Carbon, Franklin, Blair and Beaver; and

24 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
25 Program recognizes PEER Project graduates as certified volunteer
26 ombudsmen and congratulates all participants for promoting and
27 educating advocacy among residents of long-term care facilities
28 in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives congratulate
30 every PEER Project graduate's advocacy on behalf of their fellow

1 residents in long-term care facilities and recognize June 26,
2 2009, as "Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEER) Day" in
3 Pennsylvania.