
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 722 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, FREEMAN, SCHREIBER, KOTIK, CALTAGIRONE,
THOMAS, COHEN, BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG, CLAY, FLYNN,
READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, KINSEY, PARKER, ROCK, KORTZ,
O'BRIEN, ROEBUCK, BROWNLEE, KIRKLAND, GIBBONS, MCNEILL,
MIRABITO, GROVE, FLECK, MARSICO, GOODMAN, MAHONEY, D. COSTA
AND WATSON, MARCH 18, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 18, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2014 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

1 WHEREAS, African-American women are more than twice as likely
2 to die of cervical cancer than Caucasian women and are more
3 likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or
4 ethnic group; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life
25 expectancy that is 5.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of
26 the overall population of the United States; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
28 month of April 2014 as "National Minority Health Month" in
29 Pennsylvania to address health disparities and promote
30 sustainable improvement in the health status of all residents of

1 this Commonwealth.