
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 26

Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BAKER, BARRAR, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, BOBACK,
V. BROWN, BROWNLIE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA,
CUTLER, DAVIS, DeLUCA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT,
FARINA, FREEMAN, GABLER, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GRELL, GROVE,
HARHART, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KIM,
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MARSICO, MATZIE, McNEILL,
MILLARD, D. MILLER, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, PASHINSKI, PETRI,
PICKETT, READSHAW, ROSS, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER,
SNYDER, SONNEY, THOMAS, VEREB, WATSON, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD
AND McCARTER, JANUARY 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2015 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
13 with acquired brain injury, including stroke; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are 50,000 to 125,000
24 mild traumatic brain injuries, commonly referred to as
25 concussions, resulting from sports and recreation accidents in
26 Pennsylvania every year; and

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

30 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of all brain injuries are

1 concussions from trauma, affecting more than 47,000

2 Pennsylvanians; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has several government programs

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

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

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

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
12 month of March 2015 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in
13 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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