
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 706 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, ELLIS, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, GIBBONS, HENNESSEY, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KIM, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MATZIE, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, ORTITAY, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, REGAN, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, THOMAS, TOEPEL, VEREB, WARD, WATSON, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD, PAYNE, FEE, A. HARRIS, COHEN, EVERETT, DEASY, GOODMAN, GILLEN, KINSEY, MOUL, MAJOR, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARSICO AND MCCLINTON, MARCH 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2016 as "Intellectual Disability
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is characterized by
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is not a mental illness;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational
11 interventions that can cure intellectual disability, although
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and
13 adaptive functioning; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with an intellectual disability deserve
2 and require lifelong support and services; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead
4 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,
5 including intellectual disabilities and other developmental
6 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an
7 alternative to institutional care; and

8 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2014-2015, 56,300 Pennsylvanians with
9 an intellectual disability received services and support; and

10 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2014-2015, 37,121 children, including
11 significant numbers of children who have an intellectual
12 disability, received early intervention services, and an
13 additional 13,781 individuals with an intellectual disability
14 continue to wait for services; and

15 WHEREAS, These services and supports ensure that all
16 residents of this Commonwealth who have an intellectual
17 disability have the opportunity to participate in the range of
18 life experiences we all enjoy in our homes and communities, such
19 as inclusion in schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of
20 worship; and

21 WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the
22 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the
23 services and support needed to meet the specific needs and
24 abilities of people with an intellectual disability; therefore
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 month of March 2016 as "Intellectual Disability Awareness Month"
28 in Pennsylvania and acknowledge the important role of public
29 awareness and education in improving the lives of individuals
30 with an intellectual disability; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express
2 appreciation to all Pennsylvanians who conduct special outreach,
3 education and services during the month of March and urge the
4 residents of this Commonwealth to give year-round support to
5 efforts which enable people with an intellectual disability to
6 live full and productive lives in our communities.