
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 219 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, DiGIROLAMO, MURT, DeLUCA, V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, CUTLER, DAVIS, DEAN, DONATUCCI, DUSH, FEE, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GROVE, A. HARRIS, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KAVULICH, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO, MATZIE, McNEILL, MILLARD, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, READSHAW, RYAN, SAMUELSON, SCHWEYER, SOLOMON, SONNEY, TOOHIL, WARD, WARREN, WATSON, ROEBUCK AND DEASY, APRIL 7, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 7, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall well-being
4 of individuals, families, communities and businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are biologically based brain
6 disorders that cannot be overcome through willpower and are not
7 related to an individual's character or intelligence; and

8 WHEREAS, Mental health issues can affect individuals of any
9 race, religion, economic status or age; and

10 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the
11 prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young
12 adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness have the same needs
14 and are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, These individuals experience discrimination in
2 education, employment and housing; and

3 WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals
4 with a mental illness costs public and private employers
5 billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and
6 low productivity; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2015, 3 million adolescents 12 to 17 years of age
8 experienced a major depressive episode (MDE); and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals are classified as having an MDE if they
10 experience a depressed mood or loss of interest in daily
11 activities and have additional symptoms, including problems with
12 sleep, eating, energy, concentration or self-worth over a
13 certain period of time; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2014, an estimated 43.6 million adults in the
15 United States had a mental illness that included a mental,
16 behavioral or emotional disorder; and

17 WHEREAS, Proper identification and treatment of mental
18 illnesses, including support, are proven to be effective and are
19 vitally important to assist individuals in leading full,
20 productive lives; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That all governmental agencies, public and private
25 institutions, businesses, schools and residents of this
26 Commonwealth strive to increase awareness and understanding of
27 mental illnesses and the need for appropriate and accessible
28 services for all individuals with a mental illness throughout
29 the communities in this Commonwealth.