
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 283 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, RABB, MURT, BIZZARRO, HARKINS, HENNESSEY,
CALTAGIRONE, PASHINSKI, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
KINSEY, DONATUCCI, SCHWEYER, McNEILL, MILLARD, TOOHL,
V. BROWN, ROZZI, BULLOCK, NEILSON, KIRKLAND AND MARSICO,
APRIL 25, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 25, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 1, 2017, as "International Workers' Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "International Workers' Day," or "May Day," is a day
4 of remembrance that celebrates the lives and accomplishments of
5 workers; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 1, 1886, in response to workers being forced
7 to work more than 12 hours a day, the Federation of Organized
8 Trades and Labor Unions passed a resolution urging that eight
9 hours legally constitute a day's work; and

10 WHEREAS, When employers refused to recognize this demand,
11 workers went on strike across the United States in protest; and

12 WHEREAS, The bloody 1886 Haymarket Square massacre in
13 Chicago, Illinois, quickly became a rallying point for workers
14 in the struggle to attain the eight-hour workday; and

15 WHEREAS, Initially, workers organized to achieve the key
16 elements of a safe and sustainable work environment beginning

1 with an eight-hour workday, minimum wage and basic physical
2 protections; and

3 WHEREAS, Workers evolved to organize for the right to family
4 leave and medical leave and protection against discrimination;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and
7 Cultural Rights pledges that every human being has core labor
8 rights that include equal pay for equal work, a right to rest
9 and leisure and a right to form and join trade unions; and

10 WHEREAS, The right to unionize remains a struggle, with union
11 organizers continually facing violence and threats; and

12 WHEREAS, Factory workers in Bangladesh, Coca-Cola workers in
13 Central America and South America and day-to-day laborers and
14 migrant workers in the United States and around the world have
15 experienced this struggle; and

16 WHEREAS, As workers confront new attempts to undermine
17 traditional labor protections such as collective bargaining and
18 right-to-work laws, unions play a more significant role in
19 safeguarding the rights of workers; and

20 WHEREAS, Each year, millions of workers take to the streets
21 on "International Workers' Day" in protest and celebration; and

22 WHEREAS, "May Day" is a national holiday honoring workers in
23 more than 80 countries but is not observed in this nation; and

24 WHEREAS, Failure to celebrate the legacy of "May Day" in this
25 nation denies the historical and current significance of labor
26 movements, the progress on behalf of social justice and the
27 importance of workers' rights; and

28 WHEREAS, Social justice unionism and progressive unions link
29 workers' struggles for racial equality as well as equality in
30 all aspects of the labor movement in the United States and

1 around the world; and

2 WHEREAS, The next generation of workers is charting a bold
3 political course and using new tactics to agitate for increased
4 wages, safe working conditions, equal pay for all classes of
5 workers, immigrant rights and robust benefits for workers and
6 their families; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 1,
8 2017, as "International Workers' Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That Pennsylvanians honor and celebrate the
11 manifold achievements of workers and the historical and
12 continuing struggle of labor movements for justice and fair
13 working conditions.