
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 166 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE,
DIGIROLAMO, HELM, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, IRVIN, JOZWIAK,
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD,
B. MILLER, MULLINS, MURT, NEILSON, OBERLANDER, READSHAW,
RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG AND SONNEY, MARCH 20, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 20, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2019 as "Professional Counselor
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Counseling is a professional relationship that
4 empowers diverse individuals, families and groups to accomplish
5 mental health, wellness, education and career goals; and

6 WHEREAS, Professional counselors, who hold master's degrees
7 or doctorate degrees, are mental health providers trained to
8 work with individuals, families and groups in treating mental,
9 behavioral and emotional disorders and have attained a minimum
10 number of hours in supervised fieldwork to become licensed
11 professional counselors; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania State Board of Social
13 Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional
14 Counselors, more than 7,000 individuals in this Commonwealth are
15 licensed professional counselors; and

16 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors empower individuals

1 to deal adequately with life situations, reduce stress,
2 experience growth, change behavior and make well-informed
3 decisions; and

4 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors make up a large
5 percentage of the workforce employed in community mental health
6 centers, hospitals, outpatient facilities, residential
7 facilities, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, schools,
8 colleges and universities and insurers; and

9 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors work with active
10 military personnel and veterans and their families; and

11 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors assist in the
12 coordination of medical and mental health services and treatment
13 of severe mental illnesses; and

14 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors are committed to
15 providing access to quality mental health services across all
16 cultures and at all stages of life; and

17 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors endeavor to enhance
18 the quality of life in society by promoting respect for human
19 dignity; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor
21 Statistics, between 2016 and 2026, the need for counselors is
22 expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations as
23 the demand for addiction and mental health services increases;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, As the need for mental health, substance abuse,
26 school-related and rehabilitative services increases, there will
27 not be enough professional counselors or other related
28 disciplines to meet the needs of their clients; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 month of April 2019 as "Professional Counselor Awareness Month"

1 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon all
3 residents to join with the American Counseling Association,
4 Pennsylvania Chapter, to celebrate and support the professional
5 counseling profession.