
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 298 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, MURT, DeLUCA, BIZZARRO, BROWN, BULLOCK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DALEY, T. DAVIS, DEASY, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HARKINS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, JOHNSON-HARRELL, KAUFFMAN, KENYATTA, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MADDEN, MALAGARI, MARKOSEK, McCLINTON, McNEILL, MILLARD, B. MILLER, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, PYLE, READSHAW, ROTHMAN, ROZZI, RYAN, SAMUELSON, SCHROEDER, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, STURLA, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, ZABEL AND ZIMMERMAN, APRIL 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 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

1 and are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans; and

2 WHEREAS, Individuals with mental illness experience
3 discrimination in education, employment and housing; and

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

8 WHEREAS, In 2017, an estimated 9.4% of adolescents 12 to 17
9 years of age experienced a major depressive episode (MDE); and

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

15 WHEREAS, In 2017, an estimated 44.6 million adults in the
16 United States had a mental illness that included a mental,
17 behavioral or emotional disorder; and

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of May 2019 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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