

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 774 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, KIM, VITALI,
HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, KORTZ, READSHAW, FREEMAN,
POLINCHOCK, LONGIETTI, MURT, ULLMAN, BURNS, YOUNGBLOOD,
HOWARD, WARREN, NEILSON, SCHWEYER, KOSIEROWSKI, FITZGERALD,
SHUSTERMAN, ROEBUCK, HENNESSEY AND DRISCOLL,
FEBRUARY 28, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 6 through 12, 2020, as "Teen
2 Health Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2016, Pennsylvania made the first Statewide
4 proclamation and observance that focused specifically on the
5 importance of holistic health in teenagers; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2016, "Teen Health Week" has become a
7 nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the unique and
8 diverse health issues facing teens around the world, with
9 participation growing internationally in countries such as
10 Argentina, Australia, Mongolia, Switzerland and Uganda; and

11 WHEREAS, The rapid physical and emotional growth experienced
12 by teens creates needs that are distinctly different from those
13 of children and adults; and

14 WHEREAS, The distinctive health issues faced by teens
15 include, but are not limited to, gender and sexual development,
16 preventive care, mental health, nutrition, interpersonal

1 relationships and substance abuse; and

2 WHEREAS, The health behaviors and habits of teens established
3 during adolescence play a pivotal role in their future physical
4 and mental health; and

5 WHEREAS, Substance abuse, dieting, exercise habits and mental
6 illness are some of the health behaviors that are established or
7 reinforced during teenage years and can drastically affect
8 health later in life; and

9 WHEREAS, As many as one-half of mental health disorders begin
10 by 14 years of age, with most cases being undetected or
11 untreated; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 2 million residents of this Commonwealth are
13 between 10 and 19 years of age, representing one of the best
14 investments the Commonwealth can make to the health and safety
15 of this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, 45% of adolescents between 12
17 and 17 years of age have at least one chronic health condition,
18 with 25% of adolescents having two or more conditions; and

19 WHEREAS, While the adolescent period presents a variety of
20 health challenges, teens encounter many barriers to accessing
21 health care, such as fear or lack of confidentiality,
22 transportation or cost-related issues; and

23 WHEREAS, Approximately one in five high school students in
24 the United States report being bullied at school within the past
25 year, an experience which is associated with a number of serious
26 health issues such as substance abuse, emotional problems and
27 suicide; and

28 WHEREAS, Nearly one in three high school students in this
29 Commonwealth experience symptoms of depression, that if left
30 untreated, can lead to serious consequences such as suicide, a

1 leading cause of death among adolescents worldwide; and

2 WHEREAS, Promoting healthy behavior in teens promotes a
3 healthy population, resulting in a reduction in health care
4 costs and a healthier, more productive workforce across this
5 Commonwealth; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
7 week of April 6 through 12, 2020, as "Teen Health Week" in
8 Pennsylvania; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
10 residents of this Commonwealth to learn more about the many
11 unique challenges confronting teens in this Commonwealth.