
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 38 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, KILLION, BOSCOLA, BARTOLOTTA, STREET,
FONTANA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, BREWSTER, YAW, BROWNE, FOLMER,
SANTARSIERO, COSTA, HUGHES, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD, MENSCH,
AUMENT, TARTAGLIONE, BAKER AND BLAKE, MARCH 18, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2019 as "Brain Injury Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury involves the death or injury of brain
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways, resulting in
5 changes in the way an individual thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the
7 brain from trauma, stroke, aneurysms, postsurgical complications
8 and certain acquired disease processes; and

9 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a subclassification
10 of ABI caused by a direct blow to the head, the head hitting an
11 object or the head being shaken violently; and

12 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
13 regards brain injury as a major cause of death and disability in
14 the United States, accounting for approximately 30% of all
15 injury-related deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 3.5 million children and adults in the
17 United States sustain an ABI each year and more than 12 million

1 live with an ABI; and

2 WHEREAS, An average of approximately 2.5 million children and
3 adults suffer TBIs in the United States each year, resulting in
4 approximately 2.2 million emergency department visits and
5 280,000 hospital admissions; and

6 WHEREAS, On average, 137 Americans die daily and 50,000
7 Americans die annually from TBI-related injuries; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-
9 related disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Annually in this Commonwealth:

11 (1) More than 86,000 individuals suffer a brain injury.

12 (2) More than 49,000 individuals require emergency room
13 treatment for a brain injury.

14 (3) More than 11,000 individuals are hospitalized for
15 brain injury.

16 (4) Approximately 8,600 individuals sustain long-term or
17 lifelong disabilities due to brain injury.

18 (5) Approximately 2,200 residents die from a brain
19 injury;

20 and

21 WHEREAS, More than 529,200 Pennsylvanians are living with
22 brain injury; and

23 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research
24 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain
25 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss
26 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research
27 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury
28 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of
29 Philadelphia; and

30 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a

1 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury
2 Association of Pennsylvania, the Acquired Brain Injury Network
3 of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition,
4 Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation and
5 Community Providers Association; and

6 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the
7 Department of Health is committed to expanding public knowledge
8 regarding TBI as well as improving coordination and integration
9 among existing service delivery systems; and

10 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that
11 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community
12 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver,
13 which over the next two years, will be transitioned to the
14 Community HealthChoices Program; and

15 WHEREAS, The BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded through the
16 Department of Health and the Department of Education, assists
17 students who have sustained an ABI and provides consultation
18 through the students' school districts until graduation;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2019
21 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, 950 Walnut Bottom
25 Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015, the Rehabilitation and
26 Community Providers Association, 777 East Park Drive, Suite 300,
27 Harrisburg, PA 17111 and the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers'
28 Society, Inc., PO Box 2164, Boothwyn, PA 19061.