
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 206 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, CAPPELLETTI, MUTH, KEARNEY, FONTANA,
STREET, KANE, SANTARSIERO, COLLETT, SCHWANK, BREWSTER AND
COSTA, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of November 13 through 19, 2021, as
2 "Transgender Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania and recognizing
3 November 20, 2021, as "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in
4 Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, "Transgender Awareness Week" is a time for
6 transgender people and their allies to take action and bring
7 attention to the community by educating the public and advancing
8 advocacy around the issues of prejudice, discrimination and
9 violence that affect the transgender community; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations around the country
11 annually participate in "Transgender Awareness Week" to help
12 raise the visibility of transgender and gender nonconforming
13 people and hold space to lift up transgender people's sharing of
14 their own stories, joys and experiences; and

15 WHEREAS, The day following "Transgender Awareness Week" is
16 November 20, 2021, and this day, known as "Transgender Day of
17 Remembrance," was started in 1999 by transgender advocate
18 Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita

1 Hester, a 34-year-old Black transgender woman who was the victim
2 of an unsolved and brutal murder in 1998; and

3 WHEREAS, "Transgender Day of Remembrance" is now an annual
4 day of observance to honor the memory of all persons whose lives
5 were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence and bring
6 attention to the continued violence endured by transgender
7 people; and

8 WHEREAS, As of November 1, 2021, at least 242 transgender or
9 gender nonconforming people worldwide were lost to violence,
10 with at least 44 in the United States, including Jasmine Cannady
11 and J.J. Bright of Ambridge, Chyna Carrillo of New Wilmington
12 and Whispering Wind Bear Spirit of York; and

13 WHEREAS, As in previous years, most were Black and Latinx
14 transgender women; and

15 WHEREAS, The designation of "Transgender Awareness Week" and
16 "Transgender Day of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania raises much-
17 needed awareness of the violence and injustice that transgender
18 people continue to face each day and encourages us to mourn and
19 honor their lives by expressing love, support and respect for
20 all transgender people; and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly must act to protect and
22 preserve the lives of all transgender people by prioritizing
23 funding and legislation; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the week of November 13
25 through 19, 2021, as "Transgender Awareness Week" in
26 Pennsylvania and recognize November 20, 2021, as "Transgender
27 Day of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania.