

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2013 as "Disability History
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, in
4 2009, 36,150,710 individuals, or 12% of the population of the
5 United States, had a disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Disability is an aspect of the human experience that
7 crosses all boundaries of humanity worldwide; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout American history, people with
9 disabilities were subjected to discrimination and mistreatment
10 by society; and

11 WHEREAS, The early efforts of activists in the disability
12 rights movement laid the foundation for future Federal and state
13 laws, and the disability community has successfully mobilized
14 over the years to enact laws to give people with disabilities
15 important civil rights protection; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1975, the Federal Education for All Handicapped
17 Children Act (EHA) was enacted to ensure that children with

1 disabilities have the opportunity to receive a free appropriate
2 public education just like all other children; and

3 WHEREAS, Renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education
4 Act in 1990, the EHA has been amended several times to assure
5 that all children with disabilities, from birth through 21 years
6 of age, receive the appropriate supports, services and education
7 to meet their needs; and

8 WHEREAS, A major milestone in the disability rights movement
9 was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990
10 which established protections and equal opportunity for
11 individuals with disabilities, including employment,
12 transportation, telecommunications, public accommodations and
13 Federal Government and state government services; and

14 WHEREAS, Most Americans are unaware of the significant
15 historic contributions that people with disabilities have made,
16 and are continuing to make today, for the benefit of our nation;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, To ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities
19 into all aspects of society, it is essential to educate the
20 public about the history of the disability rights movement and
21 to raise awareness of the daily challenges faced by persons with
22 disabilities and of the talents and skills persons with
23 disabilities can bring to their schools, jobs and communities;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 month of October 2013 as "Disability History Awareness Month" in
27 Pennsylvania and encourage all citizens, schools and businesses
28 to work within their communities to increase awareness and
29 understanding of individuals with disabilities, their history,
30 accomplishments and contributions to their communities and

1 society.

