
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 384 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, OCTOBER 26, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and achievements of former State Senator Jim
2 Ferlo.

3 WHEREAS, Senator James "Jim" Ferlo, passed away on May 15,
4 2022, at 70 years of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo was born in Rome, New York, on June 19,
6 1951, the son of the late Thomas Henry and Isabella Ferlo; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo was a passionate and outspoken community
8 activist who cared deeply about social justice and civil
9 liberties; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo served as a member of Pittsburgh City
11 Council, representing the 7th District for 15 years from 1988 to
12 2003, and as president of Pittsburgh City Council from 1994 to
13 1998; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo served as a member of the Pennsylvania
15 Senate in the 38th Senatorial District for 12 years from 2003
16 until 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo served as the Democratic Chair of the
18 Senate Law and Justice Committee for more than 10 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo championed legislation to preserve
2 Pennsylvania's natural environment, enshrine workers' rights,
3 ensure the right to housing, provide universal health care to
4 all and reenact Pennsylvania's hate crime statute for the LGBTQ
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo announced he was gay at a 2014 press
7 conference on increasing protections for the LGBTQ community
8 under Pennsylvania's hate crime statute, becoming the first
9 openly gay State Senator in Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo served on the Board of Directors of the
11 American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania from 2015 to
12 2021, and he also served numerous organizations, including the
13 Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny River
14 Towns Enterprise Zone, the Port of Pittsburgh Commission,
15 Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and
16 Museum Commission; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Ferlo is survived by his sisters, Lyn Ferlo,
18 Carol Ferlo and Patricia (Ferlo) Thron and her husband, Jim, and
19 by his brothers, Thomas Ferlo and his wife, Pat, and Leo Ferlo,
20 as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews
21 and friends whom he adopted into his family; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
23 former State Senator Jim Ferlo.