
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 386 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, JAMES, BRENNAN, SOLOBAY, MCGEEHAN,
MELIO, SAINATO, MYERS, PARKER, BLACKWELL, GIBBONS, R. TAYLOR,
DALEY, RAPP, BAKER, GRUCELA, PAYNE, SCAVELLO, WHEATLEY,
ROEBUCK, QUINN, MAHER, GEORGE, REICHLEY, WATERS, GEIST,
CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON, BISHOP, SANTONI, MAHONEY, PETRONE,
PALLONE, M. O'BRIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, HERSHEY, CLYMER,
MARSHALL, MILLARD, GINGRICH, WATSON, SWANGER, KORTZ, RUBLEY,
KOTIK, MURT, McILVAINE SMITH, FRANKEL, KULA, FREEMAN, SONNEY,
WALKO, COHEN, McILHATTAN, HENNESSEY, K. SMITH, GOODMAN,
RAMALEY, SIPTROTH AND BOBACK, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging individuals to seek early screening and early
2 treatment of diabetic conditions and encouraging health care
3 providers to improve care to better control diabetes; and
4 commending the Governor for his initiatives.

5 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a chronic disease for which there is
6 currently no known cure and is the sixth leading cause of death
7 in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals who have Type 1 diabetes cannot produce
9 any of their own insulin or amylin, hormones needed to help
10 regulate sugar and food stores in the body; and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals who have Type 2, or adult onset,
12 diabetes cannot produce enough of their own insulin or amylin
13 and often do not exhibit symptoms in the early stages of the
14 disease; and

1 WHEREAS, The serious long-term complications of high blood
2 sugar levels may include blindness, lower-extremity amputation,
3 heart disease, kidney failure and premature death; and

4 WHEREAS, In recent years the number of individuals diagnosed
5 with diabetes has increased 41%; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States nine out of ten individuals who
7 are newly diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes also suffer from
8 obesity; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States is facing a diabetes epidemic, as
10 an estimated 20.8 million Americans are living with the disease
11 nationwide; and

12 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a leading health problem in
13 Pennsylvania, with an estimated 800,000 residents currently
14 living with the disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's prevalence rate exceeds the national
16 prevalence rate of 7% of the population; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's avoidable hospital admission rate for
18 conditions related to diabetes is 24.4 per 1,000 admissions; and

19 WHEREAS, The keys to reducing the incidence of diabetes and
20 complications associated with diabetes are education, early
21 detection, control and proper treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and treatment improve a person's
23 chances of avoiding diabetes complications; and

24 WHEREAS, The first line of treatment recommended by all
25 treatment standards is diet and exercise: a healthy diet and the
26 loss of excess weight can have a positive impact on the body's
27 ability to fight off disease; and

28 WHEREAS, It has been shown that modest weight loss may help
29 to lower blood sugar and blood pressure and improve the level of
30 fats in the bloodstream, which is beneficial to the treatment of

1 diabetes and other metabolic diseases; and

2 WHEREAS, Persons at highest risk for diabetes include older
3 citizens with a family history of the disease who are
4 overweight; and

5 WHEREAS, In recent years, there has been an alarming increase
6 in the number of younger people diagnosed with diabetes, which
7 is attributed to lifestyle and excessive body mass; therefore be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That, to reduce the rate of diabetes and its
10 complications among high-risk populations, the House of
11 Representatives encourage individuals to seek early screening
12 and early treatment, and encourage health care providers to
13 improve care for the control of diabetes and the treatment of
14 major complications; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage health
16 care providers to adopt generally recognized clinical practice
17 guidelines such as the American Diabetes Association goals,
18 recommendations and standards that identify the reduction of
19 body mass index, cardiovascular risk issues and glycemic control
20 as key factors to managing diabetes; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage health
22 care providers, as they detect and treat the emerging diabetes
23 epidemic, to engage their patients in an aggressive program
24 including dietary counseling, exercise and monitoring body
25 weight and other associated risk factors; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the
27 Governor for his initiatives to better manage and treat diabetes
28 and to prevent its onset; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the Governor and to the Department of Health for further

1 dissemination to health care providers.