
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 621 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY D. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, BAKER, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF,
BEYER, BOBACK, BOYD, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CASORIO,
CAUSER, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY,
DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL,
GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GODSHALL,
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS,
HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, W. KELLER,
KENNEY, KILLION, KULA, MAHONEY, MANDERINO, MANN, MANTZ,
MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, MENSCH, MILLARD,
R. MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MUNDY, MUSTIO, MYERS, NAILOR,
M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PETRONE, PHILLIPS,
PICKETT, PYLE, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER,
RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH,
K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEIL, R. STEVENSON, STURLA,
SWANGER, THOMAS, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHEATLEY,
J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 6, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 6, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2008 as "National Mental
2 Retardation Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is a particular state of
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is characterized by limitations
7 in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Mental retardation is not mental illness; and

9 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational
10 interventions that can cure mental retardation, although each

1 service can and does dramatically improve skills and adaptive
2 functioning; and

3 WHEREAS, People with mental retardation deserve and require
4 lifelong supports and services; and

5 WHEREAS, The term "mental retardation" is commonly referred
6 to as "intellectual disability" by many advocates, self-
7 advocates and professionals; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead
9 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,
10 including mental retardation and other developmental
11 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an
12 alternative to institutional care; and

13 WHEREAS, Almost 46,000 Pennsylvanians received mental
14 retardation services and supports this past year; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 50,000 children, including significant
16 numbers of children who have mental retardation, received early
17 intervention services, and an additional 22,000 persons with
18 mental retardation continue to wait for services; and

19 WHEREAS, These services and supports ensure that all citizens
20 of Pennsylvania who have mental retardation have the opportunity
21 to participate in the range of life experiences we all enjoy in
22 our homes and communities: inclusion in schools, neighborhoods,
23 businesses and places of worship; and

24 WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the
25 community's understanding of mental retardation and the services
26 and supports needed to meet the specific needs and abilities of
27 people with mental retardation; and

28 WHEREAS, The month of March has been designated as "National
29 Mental Retardation Awareness Month"; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the

1 important role of public awareness and education in improving
2 the lives of persons with mental retardation and recognize the
3 month of March 2008 as "National Mental Retardation Awareness
4 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express
6 appreciation to all those Pennsylvanians who conducted special
7 outreach, education and services during the month of March and
8 hereby urge the citizens of this Commonwealth to give year-round
9 support to efforts which enable people with mental retardation
10 to live full and productive lives of inclusion in our
11 communities.