
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 680 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, McILVAINE SMITH, D. O'BRIEN, BASTIAN, BISHOP, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CIVERA, COSTA, DALEY, ELLIS, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, W. KELLER, KORTZ, KOTIK, LENTZ, MANTZ, MARSHALL, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MENSCH, MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, MUSTIO, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, RAMALEY, READSHAW, SAINATO, SANTONI, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, SWANGER, THOMAS, VULAKOVICH, WALKO AND WATSON, APRIL 1, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 1, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2008, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cited as the fastest growing neurobiological
4 disorder in the world, autism is a complex, lifelong
5 developmental disability which impairs an individual's ability
6 to verbally and nonverbally communicate, as well as to socially
7 interact with others; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Autism Society of America, the
9 prevalence of autism has increased exponentially within the last
10 six years, affecting individuals and families in epidemic
11 proportions across the globe; and

12 WHEREAS, Current diagnosis rates in individual countries and
13 regions suggest the possibility of tens of millions of people
14 encompassing the autism spectrum worldwide; and

1 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2 report that as many as 1.2% of European and Scandinavian
3 children are affected by autism; and

4 WHEREAS, In the United States, the Autism Society of America
5 reports that 1.5 million children have been diagnosed on the
6 autism spectrum, translating into one in 150 births and one in
7 94 boys being diagnosed at a rate of 67 children per day and
8 approximately one new case every 20 minutes; and

9 WHEREAS, Within this Commonwealth, approximately 74,000
10 individuals are currently on the autism spectrum; and

11 WHEREAS, This year, more children will be diagnosed with
12 autism than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined; and

13 WHEREAS, Neither a cause nor a cure have been determined for
14 autism, but treatment is available and most effective when
15 initiated at an early age; and

16 WHEREAS, Studies indicate children have a 50% chance of
17 graduating from public school at an appropriate age level when
18 they are diagnosed with autism and placed into treatment
19 programs before three years of age; and

20 WHEREAS, Less than 50% of children are diagnosed with autism
21 before reaching kindergarten and many children from African-
22 American, Latino and non-English-speaking households fail to
23 receive a diagnosis before seven years of age; and

24 WHEREAS, While the total cost of caring for children with
25 autism throughout their lifetimes is approximately \$3.5 to \$5
26 million per child, early detection and intervention dramatically
27 increase a child's probability of leading a semi-independent
28 lifestyle during adulthood, reducing the total lifelong care
29 expenses by two-thirds; and

30 WHEREAS, In an effort to address and curtail the far-reaching

1 effects of autism on the global population, further funding must
2 be devoted to finding a cause and cure, while awareness must be
3 increased to promote greater recognition, understanding and
4 support, along with earlier detection, diagnosis and treatment
5 of autism; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
7 2, 2008, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.