
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 150 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY D. O'BRIEN, ELLIS, DeWEESE, MARSHALL, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARRAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, BOYLE, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, CREIGHTON, CURRY, CUTLER, DELOZIER, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DePASQUALE, DERMODY, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EACHUS, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GROVE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JOHNSON, KAUFFMAN, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, MENSCH, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MUNDY, MURPHY, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PEIFER, PETRI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, REED, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROHRER, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 26, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 26, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2009 as "Autism Awareness Month"
2 and April 2, 2009, as "World Autism Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism, a complex disability often involving mental
4 retardation, requires greater recognition and understanding to
5 ensure that all individuals with autism, whether or not they
6 have mental retardation, are accurately diagnosed and
7 appropriately treated throughout their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism is a developmental disability resulting in
9 significant impairment of an individual's ability to learn,

1 develop healthy interactive behaviors and understand verbal,
2 nonverbal and reciprocal communication; and

3 WHEREAS, Autism is the result of a neurological disorder
4 affecting brain function, which few members of the general
5 public understand; and

6 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism has not been found,
7 individuals with autism can be assisted in reaching their
8 greatest potential through accurate early diagnosis, appropriate
9 education and intervention; and

10 WHEREAS, About 1 in 150 American children has autism, which
11 has been called an urgent public health concern that is more
12 common than previously thought; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare recently created
14 the Office of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau
15 of Autism Services to provide expertise and support for all
16 agencies serving Pennsylvanians with autism; and

17 WHEREAS, Creation of the Bureau of Autism Services, along
18 with the Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services
19 and supports for autistic children and adults, will bring about
20 a new day for those individuals and their families; therefore be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
23 month of April 2009 as "Autism Awareness Month" and April 2,
24 2009, as "World Autism Day" in Pennsylvania and urge its
25 observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit of all
26 who are diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum and their
27 families.