
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 190 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, ARGALL, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALLY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, ELLIS, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, MAJOR, McCALL, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, MYERS, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUINN, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SEIP, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, HESS, SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 24, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 24, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing 2009 as the "Year of Polio Education."

2 WHEREAS, Polio vaccines have virtually eliminated naturally
3 occurring polio in the United States but not in other parts of
4 the world; and

5 WHEREAS, As few as 57% of American children receive all doses
6 of necessary vaccines during childhood, including the polio
7 vaccine; and

8 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
9 recommends that every child in the United States receive all
10 doses of inactivated polio vaccine; and

11 WHEREAS, The success of this polio vaccine has caused people
12 to forget that 1.63 million Americans born before its
13 development had polio during epidemics in the 20th century; and

1 WHEREAS, At least 70% of paralytic polio survivors and 40% of
2 nonparalytic polio survivors develop post-polio sequelae, the
3 unexpected and often disabling symptoms which occur up to 35
4 years after a poliovirus attack, including overwhelming fatigue,
5 muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders,
6 heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold pain and difficulty
7 swallowing and breathing; and

8 WHEREAS, 2009 marks the 135th anniversary of the diagnosis of
9 the first case of post-polio sequelae and the 25th anniversary
10 of the creation of the International Post-Polio Task Force; and

11 WHEREAS, Research and clinical work by members of the
12 International Post-Polio Task Force led to the discovery that
13 post-polio sequelae can be treated and prevented if polio
14 survivors are taught to conserve energy and use assistive
15 devices to stop damaging and killing the overworked, poliovirus-
16 damaged neurons in the spinal cord and brain that survived the
17 polio attack; and

18 WHEREAS, Many medical professionals and polio survivors do
19 not know of the existence of post-polio sequelae or the
20 available treatments; and

21 WHEREAS, The mission of the International Post-Polio Task
22 Force includes educating medical professionals and the world's
23 20 million polio survivors about post-polio sequelae through The
24 Post-Polio Letter Campaign, The Post-Polio Institute at New
25 Jersey's Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, The Polio
26 Paradox and television public service announcements provided by
27 the National Broadcasting Company; and

28 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to observe 2009 as the "Year of
29 Polio Education"; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

1 need for every child in the United States and throughout the
2 world to be vaccinated against polio and acknowledge the battle
3 against post-polio sequelae fought by the 1.63 million Americans
4 who have survived polio; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that
6 appropriate Federal departments and agencies educate the people
7 of the United States about the need for polio vaccination and
8 educate polio survivors and medical professionals in the United
9 States about the cause and treatment of post-polio sequelae; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the goals
12 and ideals of observing 2009 as the "Year of Polio Education" to
13 promote vaccination and post-polio sequelae education.