

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 101 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY, STACK, DINNIMAN, D. WHITE,
ERICKSON, PILEGGI, FERLO, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE,
BREWSTER, PIPPY, HUGHES, COSTA, TOMLINSON, WASHINGTON,
BOSCOLA, EARLL AND FARNESE, MAY 2, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 2, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2011, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated three in every 1,000 children 6 through
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition which has no cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is a lifelong developmental
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are affected by
12 "tics" which are actually involuntary, rapid, sudden movements
13 or vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face periodic
15 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these
16 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have

1 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and
2 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention
3 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,
4 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,
5 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are frequently
7 misunderstood by their families, educators, members of the
8 community and even by medical professionals due to their ever-
9 changing symptoms which at times seem controllable; and

10 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome was historically misinterpreted
11 and considered to be a condition of emotional disturbance
12 instead of chemical biology; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often teased
14 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

15 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette Syndrome are often
16 disciplined by educators who fail to understand the child's
17 inability to control his or her tics and that the child may be
18 delayed in his or her maturity and emotional responses; and

19 WHEREAS, Schools are required to make accommodations to
20 support their students with Tourette Syndrome so that they can
21 be successful in their education program, but many schools often
22 focus only on the behavioral or emotional component of the
23 disorder and fail to notice learning disabilities, sensory
24 integration needs, handwriting issues and organizational issues
25 as being related to Tourette Syndrome; and

26 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face
27 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
28 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
29 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

30 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with

1 Disabilities Act (ADA) to disregard disability in hiring or
2 promotions and to make accommodations to support their employees
3 with Tourette Syndrome so the employees can be successful in the
4 workplace and not be forced to file for disability; and

5 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from the workplace success of
6 employees who have Tourette Syndrome, but many employers neglect
7 to hire, promote and make accommodations for individuals with
8 Tourette Syndrome; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very
10 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
11 given the proper support; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
13 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
14 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this
15 Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Understanding this illness will help guarantee hope
17 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
18 Syndrome; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize May 15 through June 15,
20 2011, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and
21 urge all citizens to support the need for awareness and
22 education regarding Tourette Syndrome in order to assist
23 individuals and families who deal with this neurobiological
24 syndrome.