

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 718 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY KIM, YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, BISHOP,  
KIRKLAND, O'BRIEN, SCHLOSSBERG, BROWNLEE, THOMAS, KINSEY,  
BRIGGS, DeLUCA, SCHREIBER, D. COSTA, ROEBUCK, MCNEILL,  
FRANKEL AND DERMODY, MARCH 17, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 17, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning racial intolerance and racial profiling, encouraging  
2 states throughout the nation to create penalties for  
3 individuals found to have caused substantive harm through  
4 racial profiling and urging the United States Commission on  
5 Civil Rights to study and seek solutions to remedy the  
6 ongoing problem of racial profiling.

7 WHEREAS, All people in the United States of America,  
8 regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality or social or economic  
9 condition have the right to personal and material well-being;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Discrimination and racial intolerance are contrary  
12 to America's democratic principles of equality and the right of  
13 all people to be treated fairly; and

14 WHEREAS, The failure to act or speak out to prevent racial  
15 discrimination or intolerance can be considered an act of racial  
16 bias or an illegal act of discrimination; and

17 WHEREAS, Acts of racial discrimination and intolerance can  
18 occur when a person's failure to act can be considered a  
19 distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based solely

1 on race, ethnicity, nationality and social or economic condition  
2 that denies an individual a right or privilege that is enjoyed  
3 by the majority; and

4 WHEREAS, The failure to provide a safe and respectful  
5 environment for any individual has a destabilizing impact on the  
6 entire community; and

7 WHEREAS, The systemic racism apparent in the actions of  
8 persons who racially profile fellow citizens reinforces the  
9 social and economic disadvantages experienced by people of  
10 color; and

11 WHEREAS, On February 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed 17-  
12 year-old African-American teenager, was horrifically shot and  
13 killed while walking from his local 7-Eleven in Sanford,  
14 Florida, because he was viewed as suspicious by George  
15 Zimmerman; and

16 WHEREAS, On July 13, 2013, George Zimmerman was acquitted of  
17 all charges in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin; and

18 WHEREAS, The verdict in George Zimmerman's trial provoked an  
19 outcry nationwide among many Americans who are concerned about  
20 the societal impact of stand-your-ground laws and racial  
21 profiling; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives condemn racial  
23 intolerance and racial profiling; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage states  
25 throughout the nation to create penalties for individuals found  
26 to have caused substantive harm through racial profiling; and be  
27 it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the United  
29 States Commission on Civil Rights to study and seek solutions to  
30 remedy the ongoing problem of racial profiling.