
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 130 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, DINNIMAN, FERLO, KASUNIC, FARNESE,
FONTANA, WHITE, GREENLEAF, STACK, ROBBINS, RAFFERTY, BLAKE,
TARTAGLIONE, MENSCH, BAKER, ERICKSON, HUGHES, PILEGGI, SMITH,
SOLOBAY, BROWNE, WASHINGTON, COSTA, BRUBAKER AND BOSCOLA,
MAY 8, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 8, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 15 through June 15, 2013, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated three in every 1,000 children between
4 six and 17 years of age in the United States and this
5 Commonwealth are diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a
6 neurobiological, genetic 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 involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or
13 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

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face
22 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
23 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
24 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

25 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
26 Disabilities Act to disregard disability in hiring or promotions
27 and to make accommodations to support employees with Tourette
28 Syndrome so the employees can be successful in the workplace and
29 not be forced to file for disability; and

30 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very

1 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
2 given the proper supports; and

3 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, however,
4 many employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these
5 accommodations for individuals with Tourette Syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
7 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
8 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this
9 Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder will help guarantee hope
11 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
12 Syndrome; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 15 through June 15,
14 2013, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania in
15 recognition of the needs of individuals with Tourette Syndrome
16 and urge all citizens to support the need for awareness and
17 education regarding Tourette Syndrome in order to assist those
18 individuals and families who deal with this neurobiological
19 syndrome every day of their lives.