
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 307 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, ERICKSON, WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN, FERLO,
BREWSTER, KASUNIC, STACK, TEPLITZ, BAKER, GREENLEAF, BROWNE,
BOSCOLA, SMITH, SCHWANK, FONTANA, HUGHES AND ARGALL,
MARCH 10, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2014 as "Intellectual
2 Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are characterized by
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are not mental illness;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational
11 interventions that can cure intellectual disabilities, although
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and
13 adaptive functioning; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities deserve
15 and require lifelong support and services; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead
17 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,

1 including intellectual disabilities and other developmental
2 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an
3 alternative to institutional care; and

4 WHEREAS, Almost 55,230 Pennsylvanians with intellectual
5 disabilities received services and support in fiscal year 2013-
6 2014; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 37,800 children, including significant
8 numbers of children who have intellectual disabilities, received
9 early intervention services in fiscal year 2013-2014 and an
10 additional 14,801 individuals with intellectual disabilities
11 continue to wait for services; and

12 WHEREAS, These services and support ensure that all citizens
13 of this Commonwealth who have intellectual disabilities have the
14 opportunity to participate in the range of life experiences we
15 all enjoy in our homes and communities, such as inclusion in
16 schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of worship; and

17 WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the
18 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the
19 services and support needed to meet the specific needs and
20 abilities of people with intellectual disabilities; therefore be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate acknowledge the important role of
23 public awareness and education in improving the lives of
24 individuals with intellectual disabilities and recognize the
25 month of March 2014 as "Intellectual Disabilities Awareness
26 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate express appreciation to all those
28 Pennsylvanians who conduct special outreach, education and
29 services during the month of March and hereby urge the citizens
30 of this Commonwealth to give year-round support to efforts which

- 1 enable people with intellectual disabilities to live full and
- 2 productive lives in our communities.