
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 25 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, FRANKEL, SCHWEYER, COHEN, O'BRIEN, KIM, McNEILL, DeLUCA, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, DiGIROLAMO, BISHOP, LONGIETTI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KNOWLES, TALLMAN, BOBACK, CUTLER, STURLA, PICKETT, MATZIE, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO, HARHART, HENNESSEY, WATSON, MENTZER, SANTARSIERO, EVERETT, KAVULICH, O'NEILL, M. K. KELLER, FARINA, MASSER, DEASY, KINSEY, HARKINS, MURT, GABLER, SNYDER, A. HARRIS, GOODMAN, ROZZI, ROSS, WHEELAND, BROWNLEE, READSHAW, MAJOR, DONATUCCI AND McCARTER, JANUARY 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2015, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability
4 requiring greater recognition and understanding to ensure that
5 all individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder are
6 accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout
7 their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental
9 disability resulting in significant impairment of an
10 individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is the result of a
14 neurological disorder affecting brain function, the complexity

1 of which few members of the general public understand; and

2 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not
3 been found, individuals living with this disorder can be
4 assisted in reaching their greatest potential through accurate
5 early diagnosis, appropriate education and intervention; and

6 WHEREAS, Nationally, about 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
7 are living with autism spectrum disorder and prevalence figures
8 are growing; and

9 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with autism spectrum
10 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few
11 years as adolescents age into adulthood, and autism spectrum
12 disorder has become an urgent public health concern that is more
13 common than previously thought; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services created the Office
15 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism
16 Services, to provide expertise and support for all agencies
17 serving Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorder; and

18 WHEREAS, The creation of the Bureau of Autism Services, along
19 with the Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services
20 and support for children and adults living with autism spectrum
21 disorder, will bring about a new day for those individuals and
22 their families; and

23 WHEREAS, The eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day is
24 April 2, 2015, and every year autism organizations around the
25 world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-
26 raising events, as well as engage in activities that help to
27 increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and
28 impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis
29 and early intervention; and

30 WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day celebrates the unique

1 talents and skills of persons with autism spectrum disorder;
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
4 2, 2015, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and
5 urge its observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit
6 of all individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and
7 their families.