
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 163 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, BISHOP, DiGIROLAMO, DEASY, D. COSTA,
RAVENSTAHL, KIM, V. BROWN, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, BAKER,
HENNESSEY, SAMUELSON, MACKENZIE, ACOSTA, MURT, STEPHENS,
DUSH, SONNEY, PICKETT, BOBACK, KIRKLAND, FARINA, McNEILL,
COHEN, BENNINGHOFF, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, FRANKEL,
BROWNLEE, FREEMAN, WHEELAND, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI,
C. PARKER, CORBIN, DONATUCCI, THOMAS, M. K. KELLER, MARSICO,
BURNS, HARHAI, MAJOR, McCARTER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PAYNE,
GOODMAN, ROSS, KAUFFMAN, WATSON, SCHWEYER, EVERETT AND
GIBBONS, MARCH 10, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2015 as "Child Abuse Prevention
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Children bring happiness into our lives and hope to
4 our futures; and

5 WHEREAS, Children are our greatest joy and our most important
6 responsibility; and

7 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility as parents, friends,
8 neighbors, citizens and lawmakers to nurture and protect
9 children, providing an atmosphere of love and respect in which
10 they are able to grow into healthy, well-adjusted and productive
11 adults; and

12 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, as a legislative body,
13 has an ongoing commitment to protect the rights and needs of

1 children; and

2 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and
3 geographic boundaries and has reached epidemic proportions
4 across this nation and throughout this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 68,000 child abuse clearance applications
6 were received by the Department of Human Services in the month
7 of January 2015; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 16,700 referrals were entered into the
9 Child Welfare Information System, stemming from reports of child
10 abuse and neglect, need for general protective services, need
11 for law enforcement response or other complaints to be
12 investigated; and

13 WHEREAS, There were 3,425 substantiated cases of child abuse
14 in this Commonwealth in 2013, with 38 children dying as a result
15 of abuse and neglect; and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly three in five child abuse perpetrators in
17 2013 have a parental relationship with the child; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2013, 79% of substantiated reports were made by
19 mandated reporters; and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania received a record number of reports of
21 suspected child abuse in 2013, equivalent to a 10% increase from
22 2011; and

23 WHEREAS, One out of every 1,000 Pennsylvania children were
24 found to be victims of child abuse in 2013; and

25 WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians in schools, social
26 service agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout
27 this Commonwealth are working hard to nurture and support the
28 victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

29 WHEREAS, In spite of the dedication and sacrifice of these
30 individuals, much more still needs to be done to guarantee a

1 childhood free of abuse and victimization to every child in this
2 Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, As our knowledge about the prevention and treatment
4 of child abuse grows, we must provide support, information and
5 guidance to families in which signs of child abuse exist;
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
8 month of April 2015 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in
9 Pennsylvania; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to do
11 its part in creating a nurturing and supportive environment for
12 all children in this Commonwealth so that they have the
13 opportunity to grow up to be healthy and productive citizens;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the many
16 individuals and community groups and organizations who work
17 daily to treat and prevent child abuse in this Commonwealth and
18 urge all Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the
19 tragedy of child abuse.