
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 724 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHEMEL, HENNESSEY, SONNEY, DUSH, BAKER,
DONATUCCI, DiGIROLAMO, COHEN, WATSON, MILLARD, THOMAS,
BARBIN, KINSEY, VEREB, MCGINNIS, WHEELAND, READSHAW,
YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, BOBACK, LONGIETTI, ROEBUCK, MARSICO,
SCHWEYER, ROSS, MILNE, MURT, MAJOR, MAHONEY, MOUL, DeLUCA,
GILLEN, HEFFLEY AND BRADFORD, MARCH 14, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 14, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 24, 2016, as "World TB Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by
3 bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis and is the leading
4 cause of illness and death worldwide; and

5 WHEREAS, While the bacteria can infect any part of the body,
6 most of the time it settles in the lungs and is transmitted from
7 person to person by droplets from the throat and lungs of people
8 infected with the disease; and

9 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has estimated that 2
10 billion people, one third of the world's population, are
11 infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 9 million people develop TB disease each
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2013, a total of 1.5 million deaths were
15 attributed to TB; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to improvements in surveillance and prevention
2 and control activities, the number of TB cases reported in the
3 United States has declined every year since 1993; and

4 WHEREAS, Despite this progress, racial and ethnic minorities
5 and foreign-born individuals continue to be disproportionately
6 affected by TB; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2013, 81% of all TB cases in the United States
8 occurred in individuals who were Asian, African American or
9 Latino; and

10 WHEREAS, Foreign-born individuals, who have accounted for the
11 majority of TB cases in the United States since 2001,
12 represented 65% of all TB cases in the United States in 2013;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, There were 214 TB cases in this Commonwealth in
15 2013, which is down 8.5% from the total in 2012; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Health, in conjunction with county
17 and municipal health departments, continues to provide
18 information and assistance to residents with questions or
19 concerns about TB; and

20 WHEREAS, "World TB Day" is observed annually on March 24 and
21 was established in honor of Dr. Robert Koch; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Koch discovered the bacterium that causes TB,
23 which was the first step toward diagnosing and curing TB;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
26 24, 2016, as "World TB Day" in Pennsylvania to raise public
27 awareness about TB and the efforts made to prevent and treat
28 this disease; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
30 residents of this Commonwealth to join in recognizing "World TB

1 Day."