
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 115 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, WOZNIAK, TEPLITZ, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD,
EICHELBERGER, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, DINNIMAN, SCAVELLO, FONTANA,
BREWSTER, SMITH, COSTA, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH,
WHITE, FARNESE, BROOKS, TARTAGLIONE AND BLAKE, MAY 6, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 6, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 15 through June 15, 2015, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children between 6 and
4 17 years of age in the United States are diagnosed with Tourette
5 Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic condition which has no
6 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

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very
30 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when

1 given the proper supports; and

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

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
6 promotes awareness and provides support and advocacy for
7 individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this Commonwealth; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 15 through June 15,
12 2015, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania in
13 recognition of the needs of individuals with Tourette Syndrome;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents to support the
16 need for awareness and education regarding Tourette Syndrome in
17 order to assist those individuals and families who deal with
18 this neurobiological syndrome every day of their lives.