
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 63 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, QUIGLEY, MARSHALL, HARKINS, READSHAW,
PICKETT, MACKENZIE, DRISCOLL, DEAN, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI,
MATZIE, RYAN, J. HARRIS, SCHLOSSBERG, DUSH, SONNEY, MILLARD,
KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, TOOIL, MURT, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
McNEILL, CALTAGIRONE, DIAMOND, R. BROWN, M. QUINN, CHARLTON,
JOZWIAK, WARREN, IRVIN, ROEBUCK AND ROZZI, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 3, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2017, 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
15 of which few members of the general public understand; and

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services, along with the
18 Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services and
19 support for children and adults living with autism spectrum
20 disorder, continues to better the lives of those individuals and
21 their families; and

22 WHEREAS, The ninth annual "World Autism Awareness Day" is
23 April 2, 2017, and every year autism organizations around the
24 world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-
25 raising events, as well as engage in activities that help to
26 increase and develop world knowledge of the autism pandemic and
27 impart information regarding the importance of early diagnosis
28 and early intervention; and

29 WHEREAS, "World Autism Awareness Day" celebrates the unique
30 talents and skills of persons with autism spectrum disorder;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
3 2, 2017, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and
4 urge its observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit
5 of all individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and
6 their families.