
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 141 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, CEPHAS, KINSEY, DEAN, MURT, McCLINTON,
DIGIROLAMO, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, J. HARRIS,
HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, SOLOMON, RABB, V. BROWN, DAVIS,
O'BRIEN, WHEATLEY AND HILL-EVANS, MARCH 13, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness in
2 the Black Community Month" in Pennsylvania in conjunction
3 with the 2017 Black Brain Campaign being held in
4 Philadelphia.

5 WHEREAS, Persistent racial inequality and race-based
6 exclusion in the United States has translated into continuing
7 mental health disparities among African Americans and a
8 continuing mental health care gap; and

9 WHEREAS, African Americans are disproportionately affected by
10 serious psychological distress and mental health disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of African Americans seek and
12 access mental health services as compared to 40% of individuals
13 representing other racial groups; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association has reported
15 that young adult African Americans who have acquired higher
16 levels of education are less likely than other young adults to
17 seek mental health services; and

1 WHEREAS, African Americans receive low rates of outpatient
2 care and high rates of emergency care; and

3 WHEREAS, Disparities in mental health outcomes exist even
4 after access to the health care system has been improved; and

5 WHEREAS, The inaugural Black Brain Campaign in 2016 spurred
6 Philadelphia-area clinicians to explore mental health reforms
7 for African Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Marriage and family therapists Jaynay Johnson and
9 Farida Saleem-Boyer established the Black Brain Campaign to
10 strengthen families within the African-American community; and

11 WHEREAS, The structure provided by a cohesive family and
12 extended family is essential in confronting racial disparities,
13 transcending cultural and bureaucratic barriers and reducing
14 stigmas and discrimination; and

15 WHEREAS, School-based counselors and community-based
16 counselors are further essential in coordinating available
17 mental health resources and addressing the silence and the fears
18 that can perpetuate cycles of trauma; and

19 WHEREAS, Other mental health professionals, health care
20 providers and social service providers are further essential in
21 confronting provider bias where it exists; and

22 WHEREAS, Health policy experts and advocates are further
23 essential in closing the racial gaps in mental health status and
24 mental health care; and

25 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes an
26 imperative for health care policy reforms, interventions and
27 initiatives to eliminate mental health disparities based on
28 race, ethnicity, education, income or geography; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
30 month of May 2017 as "Mental Health Awareness in the Black

- 1 Community Month" in Pennsylvania in conjunction with the 2017
- 2 Black Brain Campaign being held in Philadelphia.