
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 324 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, MURT, MARSICO, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE,
CHARLTON, D. COSTA, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, FREEMAN,
GODSHALL, PHILLIPS-HILL, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,
MILLARD, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS,
SOLOMON, TOOIL, VAZQUEZ, WARD AND NEILSON, MAY 9, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 9, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 10, 2017, as "Annual Stigma Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The stigma against people with disabilities
4 negatively impacts the lives of thousands of Pennsylvanians by
5 constricting their ability to access public buildings, obtain
6 employment, live independently, engage in the community, reach
7 personal goals and aspirations, build relationships, obtain
8 transportation and integrate into society; and

9 WHEREAS, The segregation of groups, including people with
10 disabilities, deprives our communities, towns and cities of
11 intellect, creativity and more; and

12 WHEREAS, Research conducted for the Pennsylvania Mental
13 Health Consumers' Association found that 79% of Pennsylvanians
14 surveyed said they believe society thinks of individuals with
15 physical, mental or intellectual disabilities with discomfort or
16 awkwardness; and

1 WHEREAS, The lack of exposure, interaction and dialogue with
2 people with disabilities causes natural reactions of unease,
3 caution and fear; and

4 WHEREAS, Most Pennsylvanians do not understand the impact of
5 their stigmatizing thoughts, words and actions on the lives of
6 people with disabilities in this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Greater interaction with people with disabilities
8 and increased education on the subject can drastically reduce
9 stigmatizing perceptions; and

10 WHEREAS, Eliminating the stigma against people with
11 disabilities will greatly increase their quality of life and
12 their ability to become equal, contributing members of society;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, A culture of inclusivity for people with
15 disabilities will benefit all Pennsylvanians, as people with
16 disabilities add value to the communities of which they are a
17 part; and

18 WHEREAS, By addressing the generic rejection of diversity
19 where it exists in this Commonwealth, we can expand inclusion in
20 our communities; and

21 WHEREAS, The Stigma Project, founded by the Pennsylvania
22 Developmental Disabilities Council and overseen by the
23 Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association, has taken a
24 bold stand against stigma and embraced a mission to build
25 inclusivity and change negative attitudes towards people with
26 disabilities in Pennsylvania; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 10,
28 2017, as "Annual Stigma Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
29 it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage

1 Pennsylvanians to consider their personal contribution to the
2 stigma against people with disabilities, pursue further
3 education on the subject and challenge themselves to change
4 their thinking.