
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 755 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, MARCH 13, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2018 as "Professional Counselor
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Counseling is a professional relationship that
4 empowers diverse individuals, families and groups to accomplish
5 mental health, wellness, education and career goals; and

6 WHEREAS, Professional counselors, who hold master's degrees
7 or doctorate degrees, are mental health providers trained to
8 work with individuals, families and groups in treating mental,
9 behavioral and emotional disorders and have attained a minimum
10 number of hours in supervised fieldwork to become licensed
11 professional counselors; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania State Board of Social
13 Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional
14 Counselors, more than 7,000 individuals in this Commonwealth are
15 licensed professional counselors; and

16 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors empower individuals
17 to deal adequately with life situations, reduce stress,
18 experience growth, change behavior and make well-informed

1 decisions; and

2 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors make up a large
3 percentage of the workforce employed in community mental health
4 centers, hospitals, outpatient facilities, residential
5 facilities, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, schools,
6 colleges and universities and insurers; and

7 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors work with active
8 military personnel and veterans and their families; and

9 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors assist in the
10 coordination of medical and mental health services and treatment
11 of severe mental illnesses; and

12 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors are committed to
13 providing access to quality mental health services across all
14 cultures and at all stages of life; and

15 WHEREAS, Licensed professional counselors endeavor to enhance
16 the quality of life in society by promoting respect for human
17 dignity; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor
19 Statistics, between 2016 and 2026, the need for counselors is
20 expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations as
21 the demand for addiction and mental health services increases;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, As the need for mental health, substance abuse,
24 school-related and rehabilitative services increases, there will
25 not be enough professional counselors or other related
26 disciplines to meet the needs of their clients; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 month of April 2018 as "Professional Counselor Awareness Month"
29 in Pennsylvania and call upon all citizens to join with the
30 American Counseling Association, Pennsylvania Chapter, to

1 celebrate and support the professional counseling profession.