
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 855 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, TOOIL, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, STAATS,
J. McNEILL, LONGIETTI, WARD, GREINER, DUSH, SONNEY, MURT,
NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, RYAN, CHARLTON, KRUEGER-BRANEKY,
STURLA, KINSEY, PICKETT, BURNS, McCLINTON, BOBACK, B. MILLER,
R. BROWN, DiGIROLAMO, A. HARRIS, JOZWIAK, MILLARD,
CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO, GROVE, DRISCOLL, ROEBUCK, O'NEILL,
SCHWEYER, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND BIZZARRO, APRIL 19, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 19, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 15 through June 15, 2018, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 1 out of every 360 children 6 through
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition that has no 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

1 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

2 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome frequently have
3 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and
4 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention
5 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,
6 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,
7 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are frequently
9 misunderstood by their families, educators, communities and even
10 medical professionals because their symptoms change frequently
11 and at times seem controllable; and

12 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome has historically been
13 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional
14 disturbance instead of a condition of chemical biology; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often teased
16 and not accepted by their peers and by the general public; and

17 WHEREAS, Educators may discipline children with Tourette
18 syndrome for manifestations of their disability; and

19 WHEREAS, Educators may fail to understand that a child with
20 Tourette syndrome is unable to control tics and that the child's
21 maturity and emotional responses may be delayed; and

22 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome may face
23 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
24 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
25 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

26 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are often very
27 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
28 given the proper support; and

29 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
30 Disabilities Act to disregard disability when hiring or

1 promoting individuals and to make reasonable accommodations to
2 support their employees with Tourette syndrome so that the
3 employees can be successful in the workplace and not be forced
4 to file for disability; and

5 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from the success of employees
6 with Tourette syndrome, but many employers neglect to hire,
7 promote and make accommodations for individuals with Tourette
8 syndrome; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
10 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
11 and disability advocacy for individuals with Tourette syndrome
12 in this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder helps guarantee hope for
14 acceptance and a better future for individuals with Tourette
15 syndrome; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 15
17 through June 15, 2018, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in
18 Pennsylvania and urge all residents to support the need for
19 Tourette syndrome awareness and education to assist individuals
20 and families who deal with this neurobiological disorder every
21 day.