
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 294 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, SONNEY, RYAN, STAATS, BURNS, YOUNGBLOOD,
KINSEY, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, WILLIAMS, READSHAW, MEHAFFIE,
ZIMMERMAN, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, SCHMITT,
FREEMAN, SANCHEZ, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, KORTZ,
BARRAR, BROWN, CIRESI, OBERLANDER, T. DAVIS, McNEILL, BROOKS,
TOOHIL, PICKETT AND HELM, MAY 1, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 1, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2019, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children 6 to 17 years
4 of age in the United States are diagnosed with Tourette
5 syndrome; and

6 WHEREAS, Tourette syndrome is defined as a group of
7 childhood-onset, neurodevelopmental conditions, known
8 collectively as tic disorders, which becomes evident in early
9 childhood or adolescence; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals with tic disorders suffer lifelong
11 symptoms that occur in all ethnic groups and that affects men
12 three to four times more often than women; and

13 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are affected by
14 tics which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or
15 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face periodic
2 changes in the nature, frequency and severity of their tics,
3 without forewarning; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome frequently have
5 co-occurring conditions that complicate their care and diagnosis
6 and cause more impairment than the tics themselves, including
7 attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity
8 disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, mood disorders,
9 learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties, executive
10 function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette syndrome are often
15 disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators
16 who fail to understand that the child is unable to control their
17 tics and that the child may be delayed in their maturity and
18 emotional responses; and

19 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome face
20 discrimination while dealing with their unpredictable disorder;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette syndrome are intelligent
23 and capable of great contributions to society when given the
24 proper supports; and

25 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
26 Disabilities Act to disregard disability when hiring or
27 promoting individuals and make accommodations for employees with
28 Tourette syndrome; and

29 WHEREAS, Employers benefit from employee success, yet many
30 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make accommodations

1 for individuals with Tourette syndrome; and

2 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
3 promotes awareness and provides support and disability advocacy
4 for individuals with Tourette syndrome in this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder will help guarantee hope
6 for acceptance and a better future for individuals with Tourette
7 syndrome; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 15
9 through June 15, 2019, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in
10 Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
12 needs of individuals with neurological impairment and urge all
13 residents to support Tourette syndrome awareness and education
14 in order to assist those individuals and families who deal with
15 this neurobiological disorder every day.