
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 310 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, CEPHAS, BIZZARRO, FRANKEL, KENYATTA,
KORTZ, KIRKLAND, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, HEFFLEY,
LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, PASHINSKI, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, STURLA,
FREEMAN, MURT, JOHNSON-HARRELL, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO,
CALTAGIRONE, McCLINTON AND SCHWEYER, MAY 6, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 6, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 as "Mental Health Awareness in
2 the Black Community Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Compared with other racial groups, African Americans

1 are more likely to use emergency rooms or primary care rather
2 than mental health specialists for care and treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, One out of every three African Americans who need
4 mental health care receives it; and

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

8 WHEREAS, The inaugural Black Brain Campaign in 2016 spurred
9 Philadelphia-area clinicians to explore mental health reforms
10 for African Americans; 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 also essential in coordinating available mental
17 health resources and addressing the silence and the fears that
18 can perpetuate cycles of trauma; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Health policy experts and advocates are also
23 important to close the racial gaps in mental health status and
24 mental health care; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 month of May 2019 as "Mental Health Awareness in the Black
27 Community Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize an
29 imperative for health care policy reforms, interventions and
30 initiatives to eliminate mental health disparities based on

1 race, ethnicity, education, income or geography.