
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 499 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HOHENSTEIN, BURNS, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS,
McCLINTON, SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, SONNEY, KORTZ, DiGIROLAMO,
RAVENSTAHL, FREEMAN, MILLARD, BROWN, MACKENZIE, HARKINS, KIM
AND MURT, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of October 13 through 19, 2019, as
2 "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Awareness Week" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Equally affecting individuals from all races,
5 ethnicities and backgrounds, obsessive compulsive disorder is a
6 mental illness involving a continuing cycle of obsessions and
7 compulsions; and

8 WHEREAS, Obsessions are unwanted, recurring and intrusive
9 thoughts that typically elicit distressing feelings; and

10 WHEREAS, Compulsions are excessive and repetitive behaviors
11 undertaken to mitigate distress that results from obsessions;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that genetic predisposition and
14 an inability for certain brain cells to communicate with one
15 another contribute to obsessive compulsive disorder, though a
16 precise cause of the disorder is unknown; and

17 WHEREAS, Licensed mental health professionals diagnose

1 obsessive compulsive disorder when an individual experiences
2 both obsessions and compulsions that interfere with other
3 important life activities; and

4 WHEREAS, Obsessive compulsive disorder can begin at any age,
5 but typically first appears between 10 and 12 years of age, in
6 the late teenage years or early adulthood; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 3 million adults in the United States,
8 approximately 1.2% of the adult population, are currently
9 diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, An estimated 500,000 children in the United States
11 have obsessive compulsive disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3% of American citizens will
13 struggle with obsessive compulsive disorder at some point in
14 their lifetime; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals with obsessive compulsive disorder
16 grapple with the disorder in varying degrees of severity with
17 50.6% experiencing severe impairment, 34.8% experiencing
18 moderate impairment and 14.6% experiencing mild impairment; and

19 WHEREAS, An average of 14 to 17 years elapse between the time
20 someone begins experiencing symptoms of obsessive compulsive
21 disorder until the time they receive appropriate treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, The majority of individuals suffering from obsessive
23 compulsive disorder benefit from a combination of therapy and
24 medicine; and

25 WHEREAS, First recognized in 2009, "Obsessive Compulsive
26 Disorder Awareness Week" occurs in the second week of October
27 each year and is an international effort to increase awareness
28 and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder; and

29 WHEREAS, Through raising awareness, "Obsessive Compulsive
30 Disorder Awareness Week" seeks to help individuals receive

1 appropriate and effective treatment for the disorder; therefore
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
4 week of October 13 through 19, 2019, as "Obsessive Compulsive
5 Disorder Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives raise awareness
7 and understanding about obsessive compulsive disorder while
8 acknowledging the importance of timely access to effective
9 treatment.