
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 517 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, HARKINS, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD,
CALTAGIRONE, HAHN, HENNESSEY, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KORTZ,
DIGIROLAMO, MERSKI, MURT, FREEMAN, BIZZARRO, McCLINTON,
McNEILL, McCARTER, SONNEY, T. DAVIS, BERNSTINE, BURNS,
MACKENZIE, BROWN, READSHAW AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2019 as "Dyslexia Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Developmental reading disorder, or dyslexia, is a
4 language-based learning disability that occurs when there is a
5 problem in areas of the brain that help interpret language; and

6 WHEREAS, Dyslexia's symptoms include slow or inaccurate
7 reading, poor spelling, poor writing or mixing up similar words;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Problems experienced by people with dyslexia may
10 include:

11 (1) confusing letters or having difficulty learning the
12 sounds that go with letters;

13 (2) having trouble learning how to speak, recognizing
14 words or determining the meaning of a simple sentence; and

15 (3) having trouble processing the sounds of language,
16 such as rhyming;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Dyslexia can include disorganization of written and
3 spoken language or struggles in comprehending and concentrating
4 on longer reading assignments; and

5 WHEREAS, Dyslexia may also include difficulty in correctly
6 performing math operations, memorizing number facts or learning
7 a foreign language; and

8 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a specific information processing
9 problem that does not interfere with one's ability to think or
10 understand complex ideas; and

11 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is not caused by a lack of desire to learn
12 and affects people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels,
13 with the majority of individuals being of normal intelligence
14 and many being above average in intelligence; and

15 WHEREAS, Students with dyslexia are likely to struggle with
16 many aspects of academic learning, are at a higher risk of
17 dropping out of school entirely and often go for years without
18 being properly diagnosed; and

19 WHEREAS, Aside from problems in school, an individual with
20 dyslexia can experience a loss of self-esteem and general
21 reading problems that may persist into adulthood, which can
22 affect the individual's job performance; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the International Dyslexia Association,
24 approximately 85% of students classified as having a primary
25 learning disability have difficulty in reading and language
26 processing; and

27 WHEREAS, The number of people having some symptoms of
28 dyslexia is much higher, perhaps as much as 15% to 20% of the
29 entire United States population; and

30 WHEREAS, There is much hope for students who are correctly

1 diagnosed with this disorder, as they can successfully learn
2 with appropriate teaching methods; and

3 WHEREAS, The earlier that dyslexia is diagnosed, the better
4 for the student; and

5 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a disorder that often manifests among
6 members of the same family; and

7 WHEREAS, While dyslexia affects individuals throughout their
8 lives, its impact can change at different stages of life; and

9 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is an often misunderstood language-based
10 disability, and a large percentage of residents of this
11 Commonwealth experience one or more symptoms of this disorder;
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
14 month of October 2019 as "Dyslexia Awareness Month" in
15 Pennsylvania.