

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 709 Session of
 2020

INTRODUCED BY ULLMAN, O'MARA, MURT, McNEILL, KENYATTA, SANCHEZ,
COMITTA, DeLISSIO, HILL-EVANS, WILLIAMS, SAPPEY, SHUSTERMAN,
VITALI, BURNS, KIM, DONATUCCI, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN,
YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, FREEMAN, NEILSON, THOMAS, FRANKEL,
ISAACSON, T. DAVIS, RAVENSTAHL, SCHWEYER, GAINES AND WARREN,
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 15, 2020, as "Love is Love Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, February 14, better known as Valentine's
4 Day, receives much media attention with couples and loved ones
5 proclaiming their love for each other; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
7 transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) are often excluded
8 from Valentine's Day mainstream media coverage; and

9 WHEREAS, Being an adolescent during a time when those around
10 you are expressing their love for each other can be
11 overwhelming, especially if you do not see examples you identify
12 with; and

13 WHEREAS, Twenty-six percent of LGBTQ youths say their biggest
14 problems are not being accepted by their family, trouble at
15 school and fear to be out or open, making it crucial that
16 individuals offer love and become allies for LGBTQ youths in

1 their lives; and

2 WHEREAS, How parents and guardians engage with their LGBTQ
3 children can have a tremendous impact on their current and
4 future mental and physical health; and

5 WHEREAS, Students describe how hearing slurs, lacking
6 resources relevant to their experience, being discouraged from
7 having same-sex relationships and being regularly misgendered
8 make the school a hostile environment, which in turn can impact
9 their health and well-being; and

10 WHEREAS, LGBTQ students also described persistent patterns of
11 isolation, exclusion and marginalization that made them feel
12 unsafe or unwelcome at school; and

13 WHEREAS, Supporting and accepting LGBTQ youths around you,
14 especially during a time when love is being spoken about, can
15 often help these youths better deal with life challenges and how
16 they are feeling; and

17 WHEREAS, In order to continue to promote the health and
18 safety of LGBTQ youths, schools and programs where youths spend
19 most of their time should advance the message of respecting
20 those different from you and prohibit bullying, harassment and
21 violence against those who identify as LGBTQ; and

22 WHEREAS, Approximately 73% of LGBTQ youths say they are more
23 honest about themselves online than in the real world, making it
24 urgent that more communities in this Commonwealth offer support
25 to LGBTQ youths around them; and

26 WHEREAS, Encouraging families and allies to facilitate access
27 to community-based providers who have experience providing
28 health services, including medical testing and counseling,
29 social and psychological services to LGBTQ youths is extremely
30 beneficial; and

1 WHEREAS, Accepting LGBTQ youths in our communities and in
2 society at large helps remind those who we care about that love
3 is love regardless of how they identify; therefore be it
4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
5 February 15, 2020, as "Love is Love Day" in Pennsylvania.