
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 879 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DIAMOND, MILLARD, RYAN, GREGORY, BOROWICZ, JAMES,
DUSH, CAUSER, MUSTELLO, COOK, DAVANZO, KEEFER, BERNSTINE,
SANKEY, PYLE, IRVIN, METCALFE, ROAE, ZIMMERMAN, BARRAR AND
MENTZER, MAY 19, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the immediate removal or resignation of Secretary of
2 Health Dr. Rachel Levine.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Levine was named as the Acting Secretary of
4 Health by Governor Tom Wolf in July 2017 and confirmed by the
5 Senate as Secretary of Health in March 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Health is responsible under The
7 Disease Prevention and Control Act of 1955 to carry out
8 appropriate control measures to limit the spread of disease in
9 order to protect all Pennsylvanians; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Health has led the charge during
11 the COVID-19 pandemic in providing guidance to the departments
12 and agencies that oversee this Commonwealth's most vulnerable
13 populations, especially seniors, older adults and individuals
14 with compromised immune systems; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Health, under Secretary Levine,
16 halted routine inspections, including life safety and emergency
17 preparedness elements, of long-term care facilities, including

1 nursing homes, hospice care, home health care and intermediate
2 care, on March 31, 2020; and

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Health, under Secretary Levine,
4 instituted guidance for nursing facilities to admit and readmit
5 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 on March 18, 2020,
6 putting the patients and staff of nursing facilities at greater
7 risk; and

8 WHEREAS, To date, 2,611 of 3,806, or 68.6%, of the COVID-19-
9 related deaths in this Commonwealth have occurred in long-term
10 care facilities; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 29, 2020, it was widely reported that
12 Secretary Levine's mother was a resident in one of this
13 Commonwealth's personal care homes; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 11, 2020, Secretary Levine confirmed during a
15 press conference that she moved her mother out of the personal
16 care home and into a hotel; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite moving her own mother out of the personal
18 care home, Secretary Levine did not make the residents of this
19 Commonwealth immediately aware of her actions nor the underlying
20 reasons, therefore withholding information and transparency
21 which could have benefited the citizens of this Commonwealth and
22 their loved ones, and potentially could have saved lives;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
25 immediate removal or resignation of the Secretary of Health Dr.
26 Rachel Levine.