

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 302 Session of  
2020

---

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, BAKER,  
KEARNEY, IOVINO, LEACH, COLLETT, BROOKS, BREWSTER,  
BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, J. WARD, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
SANTARSIERO, KILLION AND MENSCH, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

---

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2020 as "Disabilities Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1955, the Pennsylvania General  
4 Assembly passed the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, which  
5 prohibited discrimination in the areas of employment, housing  
6 and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, familial  
7 status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age,  
8 sex and national origin; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 26, 1973, the Congress of the United  
10 States passed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which was the  
11 precursor to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act  
12 of 1990, and prohibited the Federal Government, as an employer,  
13 from discriminating against qualified individuals with  
14 disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed  
16 into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA),  
17 which served as the world's first comprehensive civil rights law

1 for individuals with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, nearly  
3 1 in 5 individuals, or approximately 56.7 million individuals,  
4 in the United States have a disability; and

5 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, approximately 14.2%, or an  
6 estimated 1.8 million residents, have a disability; and

7 WHEREAS, According to data obtained from the 2017 American  
8 Community Survey, the prevalence of disability in this  
9 Commonwealth by race was 11.3% among whites, 13.1% among those  
10 of Hispanic or Latino origin, 16.2% among African Americans,  
11 16.3% among individuals of other races and 16.3% among Native  
12 Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, According to United States Census data, the economic  
14 consequences of having a disability in America are compelling;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 19.1% of working-age Americans with a  
17 disability are employed as compared to 65.9% of working-age  
18 nondisabled Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, This presents a quality-of-life issue, as in 2016,  
20 the poverty rate of working-age individuals with disabilities in  
21 this Commonwealth was estimated to be 28% as compared to 9.4%  
22 for working-age individuals without a disability; and

23 WHEREAS, Although the act of fostering awareness about the  
24 issue of our Commonwealth's disabled population is important,  
25 the real objective lies in ensuring that Pennsylvanians with  
26 disabilities are provided the dignity, respect and  
27 accommodations that they deserve; and

28 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to recognize the  
29 prevalence of the systemic inequities that exist within our  
30 society pertaining to the treatment of our residents with

1 disabilities as well as acknowledge the many invaluable efforts  
2 that have been made throughout the history of our nation to  
3 institute much-needed civil protections for all Americans;  
4 therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2020  
6 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
7 further

8       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to  
9 learn more about the many unique challenges confronting this  
10 Commonwealth's residents who are disabled and assume the task of  
11 fostering a greater degree of awareness and education regarding  
12 this critically important subject.