
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 326 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, MUTH AND DINNIMAN, MAY 8, 2020

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 8, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States, White House staff and
2 Federal public health officials to use the Federal
3 Government's power to order the manufacturing of essential
4 testing supplies, procure supplies for widespread testing and
5 direct needed resources to states, including Pennsylvania, to
6 mitigate additional exposure to COVID-19 due to widespread
7 business reopenings.

8 WHEREAS, On April 19, 2020, President Trump touted that
9 4,180,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted nationwide; and

10 WHEREAS, That figure represents only 1.27% of the
11 approximately 330 million Americans facing exposure to the novel
12 coronavirus, known as COVID-19; and

13 WHEREAS, The Director of the National Institute of Allergy
14 and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, optimistically
15 estimated that the COVID-19 vaccine could be 12 to 18 months
16 from development; and

17 WHEREAS, Consequently, without a robust testing solution to
18 trace and identify individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19
19 or have the antibodies to the virus, citizens of this
20 Commonwealth and our nation as a whole still lack confidence
21 that a broad-based reopening of the economy will not lead to an

1 increased exposure to COVID-19 and additional sickness and
2 deaths from COVID-19; and

3 WHEREAS, Many medical professionals agree that without
4 widespread testing for COVID-19, a broad reopening of our
5 nation's economy cannot be done in a safe manner; and

6 WHEREAS, Researchers at Harvard University recently suggested
7 that without tripling the daily COVID-19 testing being conducted
8 in the United States during the next month, our nation will be
9 unable to reduce our COVID-19 positive test rate to 10%; and

10 WHEREAS, The maximum COVID-19 positive test rate recommended
11 by the World Health Organization is 10%; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States is currently averaging 146,000
13 tests per day in the month of April; and

14 WHEREAS, Citizens of this Commonwealth trust that the medical
15 community will use the scientific data necessary to make
16 informed public health decisions when addressing our ability to
17 get back to business in this Commonwealth and throughout our
18 country; and

19 WHEREAS, The Federal Government should be partnering with
20 this Commonwealth to procure or provide the necessary materials,
21 including reagents, swabs and antibody and diagnostic testing,
22 to create quantifiable data that can responsibly inform
23 decisions regarding this Commonwealth's ability to safely reopen
24 businesses and get Pennsylvanians back to work; and

25 WHEREAS, In the absence of widespread testing for COVID-19,
26 the Commonwealth will be unable to adequately protect
27 Pennsylvanians from potential exposure to COVID-19 when opening
28 up sectors of the economy; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the President of the United
30 States, White House staff and Federal public health officials to

1 use the Federal Government's power to order the manufacturing of
2 essential testing supplies, procure supplies for widespread
3 testing and direct needed resources to states, including
4 Pennsylvania, to mitigate additional exposure to COVID-19 due to
5 widespread business reopenings.