

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 87 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, KEARNEY,
BARTOLOTTA, K. WARD, ARGALL, BROWNE, MENSCH, COLLETT, REGAN,
FONTANA, LANGERHOLC, COSTA, YUDICHAK, KANE, VOGEL, MARTIN,
SANTARSIERO, PITTMAN, STEFANO, COMITTA AND BREWSTER,
APRIL 21, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 21, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2021 as "Child Abuse Prevention
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 1 million children in the
4 United States are documented as the victims of child abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2019, there were 4,865 substantiated cases of
6 child abuse in this Commonwealth, with 51 children dying as a
7 direct result of abuse and neglect and 93 children nearly losing
8 their lives; and

9 WHEREAS, These tragic numbers reflect the unsettling reality
10 that thousands of children in this Commonwealth go to bed hurt,
11 hungry, cold and alone or live every day in fear of the very
12 people who should be protecting them; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the General Assembly has passed measures in
14 recent years to bolster screening for caregivers, improve
15 reporting, stiffen penalties and fortify investigations, child
16 abuse and neglect remain, and the secretiveness which surrounds

1 child abuse and neglect in far too many families in this
2 Commonwealth is especially difficult to combat; and

3 WHEREAS, The heroin and opioid epidemic, which continues to
4 claim the lives of 15 Pennsylvanians every day, often victimizes
5 the children of parents struggling with addiction, with infants
6 and young children frequently left unsupervised and unsupported
7 in the most unsafe and unsanitary of conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and
9 geographic boundaries; and

10 WHEREAS, The damaging effects of child abuse include school
11 failure, alcohol and drug abuse and physical and psychological
12 difficulties; and

13 WHEREAS, Child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness
14 raised so that families can learn that they have access to
15 community resources which offer support, information and
16 guidance to help stop or prevent abusive behaviors or
17 conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, By working to enhance awareness of child abuse and
19 prevent and end abusive behaviors and environments, we
20 demonstrate our collective commitment to breaking the vicious
21 cycle of abuse and creating a safe, nurturing, loving
22 environment for every infant and child in this Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians in schools, social service
24 agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout this
25 Commonwealth are working to support the victims of child abuse
26 and prevent future abuse; and

27 WHEREAS, In spite of these efforts, more needs to be done to
28 guarantee a childhood free of abuse and victimization to every
29 child in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2021

1 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the individuals, agencies,
4 churches and community groups that work to treat and prevent
5 child abuse and urge all Pennsylvanians to do their part in
6 preventing the tragedy of child abuse.