
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 274 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI,
COLLETT, MARTIN, COMMITTA, KANE, MENSCH, SANTARSIERO AND
SCAVELLO, APRIL 12, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 12, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2022 as "Child Abuse Prevention
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 4 million abuse and neglect
4 referrals are made to child protection agencies involving more
5 than 4.3 million children in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2020, there were 4,593 substantiated cases of
7 child abuse in this Commonwealth, with 73 children dying as a
8 direct result of abuse and neglect and 115 children nearly
9 losing their lives; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Although the General Assembly has passed measures in
15 recent years to bolster screening for caregivers, improve
16 reporting, stiffen penalties and fortify investigations, child
17 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 COVID-19 pandemic, service interruptions and
4 Statewide virtual schooling aided in this crisis by decreasing
5 the number and frequency of our teachers, friends and the public
6 having eyes on our children, catching warning signs of abuse and
7 intervening to prevent deaths; and

8 WHEREAS, The heroin and opioid epidemic, which continues to
9 claim the lives of 14 Pennsylvanians every day, often victimizes
10 the children of parents struggling with addiction, with infants
11 and young children frequently left unsupervised and unsupported
12 in the most unsafe and unsanitary of conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and
14 geographic boundaries; and

15 WHEREAS, The damaging effects of child abuse include school
16 failure, alcohol and drug abuse and physical and psychological
17 difficulties; and

18 WHEREAS, Child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness
19 raised so that families can learn that they have access to
20 community resources which offer support, information and
21 guidance to help stop or prevent abusive behaviors or
22 conditions; and

23 WHEREAS, By working to enhance awareness of child abuse and
24 prevent and end abusive behaviors and environments, we
25 demonstrate our collective commitment to breaking the vicious
26 cycle of abuse and creating a safe, nurturing, loving
27 environment for every infant and child in this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians in schools, social service
29 agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout this
30 Commonwealth are working to support the victims of child abuse

1 and prevent future abuse; and

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

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2022
6 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the individuals, agencies,
9 churches and community groups that work to treat and prevent
10 child abuse, and urge all Pennsylvanians to do their part in
11 preventing the tragedy of child abuse.