

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 23 Session of  
2023

---

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, McCLINTON, PIELLI, N. NELSON, FREEMAN,  
HOHENSTEIN, WAXMAN, MADDEN, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, RABB, KINSEY,  
HOWARD, SANCHEZ, KENYATTA, SCHLOSSBERG, D. WILLIAMS, KHAN,  
CIRESI, VITALI, KINKEAD AND HADDOCK, MARCH 8, 2023

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 8, 2023

---

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 18, 2023, as "Public Defender Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, March 18, 2023, marks the 60th anniversary of the  
4 United States Supreme Court decision in Gideon v. Wainwright;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Court unanimously ruled that the Sixth Amendment  
7 to the Constitution of the United States guaranteed every person  
8 the right to an attorney, regardless of the person's ability to  
9 afford one or the severity of the person's alleged crime; and

10 WHEREAS, The ruling spurred nationwide efforts to recruit and  
11 train legal defense attorneys for the purpose of providing a  
12 public defense; and

13 WHEREAS, These efforts were built on the legacy of Clara  
14 Shortridge Foltz, who first presented her vision for public  
15 defense in 1893; and

16 WHEREAS, Public defenders serve to give a voice to the  
17 otherwise voiceless in our society at their most desperate

1 moments; and

2 WHEREAS, In order to best serve this purpose, public  
3 defenders must have access to the same resources as the  
4 prosecution; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania remains the only state in the nation  
6 that provides zero State funding for public defender offices;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The lack of resources strains even the best  
9 attorneys and negatively impacts the quality of a legal defense;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Despite ongoing challenges, public defenders  
12 continue to show up and give their all to their clients;  
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
15 recognize March 18, 2023, as "Public Defender Day" in  
16 Pennsylvania and honor the hard and selfless work of public  
17 defenders across this Commonwealth.