

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 155 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY T. DAVIS, KHAN, HILL-EVANS, GALLAGHER, VENKAT,
MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, KINSEY, VITALI, SAPPEY AND
SCOTT, JUNE 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 20, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2023 as "National Aphasia
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Aphasia is defined as an impairment of language,
4 affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the
5 ability to read or write; and

6 WHEREAS, It causes individuals to have trouble speaking and
7 understanding others, including the inability to process long
8 words and infrequently used words; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Aphasia Association estimates that
10 aphasia affects nearly 2 million Americans, with approximately
11 180,000 Americans developing the disorder each year; and

12 WHEREAS, The most common cause of aphasia is stroke, with 15%
13 of individuals younger than 65 years of age and 43% of
14 individuals older than 85 years of age experiencing aphasia
15 after their first ischemic stroke; and

16 WHEREAS, Other causes include head injury, brain tumor or
17 other neurological issues; and

1 WHEREAS, Aphasia not only takes a physical toll, but can also
2 take an emotional one as patients can feel trapped in their own
3 mind as they struggle to express themselves and speak with their
4 friends and family; and

5 WHEREAS, There are three types of aphasia, including
6 Wernicke's Aphasia, Broca's Aphasia and Global Aphasia, which
7 all vary in severity and symptoms, but can leave a patient
8 feeling frustrated and isolated; and

9 WHEREAS, If the symptoms of aphasia last longer than three
10 months after a stroke, many individuals never completely
11 recover, but with continued rehabilitation and support some
12 patients can continue to improve over the years and even
13 decades; and

14 WHEREAS, By increasing awareness of this disorder, further
15 steps toward a solution to restore speech and comprehension
16 abilities for those affected by aphasia can be taken; therefore
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
19 month of June 2023 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month" in
20 Pennsylvania.