
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 262 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, SCHWANK,
TARTAGLIONE, KANE AND COLLETT, APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 1 through 7, 2024, as "Public
2 Health Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The week of April 1 through 7, 2024, is "National
4 Public Health Week"; and

5 WHEREAS, The theme for "National Public Health Week" in 2024
6 is "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public
7 Health"; and

8 WHEREAS, The goal of "National Public Health Week" in 2024 is
9 to recognize the contributions of public health in improving the
10 health of people and achieving health equity; and

11 WHEREAS, From 2019 to 2021, the life expectancy at birth for
12 the population of the United States declined by 2.7 years, which
13 is the biggest two-year decline in life expectancy since 1921-
14 1923; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of the leading causes of death for individuals
16 in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are
17 among the most common, costly and preventable of all health

1 challenges; and

2 WHEREAS, There are significant differences in the health
3 status of individuals living in the healthiest parts of this
4 Commonwealth and those living in the unhealthiest parts,
5 including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of
6 chronic disease and the prevalence of infectious disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic minority populations in this
8 Commonwealth continue to experience disparities in the burden of
9 illness and death, as compared with the entire population of
10 this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Violence is a leading cause of premature death, and
12 it is estimated that more than seven individuals per hour die a
13 violent death in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United
15 States billions of dollars, and the violence of homicides can
16 cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury,
17 disability, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress
18 disorder; and

19 WHEREAS, An estimated one in seven children in the United
20 States experienced child abuse and neglect in the past year,
21 with 1,750 children dying of abuse and neglect in 2020; and

22 WHEREAS, Significant progress has been made in reducing the
23 infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of
24 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021, but there are
25 still stark disparities in infant mortality by race, ethnicity,
26 geography and income, such as the fact that Black infants
27 experience infant mortality at a rate twice that of white
28 infants; and

29 WHEREAS, Women die from pregnancy-related complications in
30 the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed

1 countries, with the rate of maternal mortality being 17.6 deaths
2 per 100,000 live births in 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 60% of maternal deaths in the United
4 States are preventable; and

5 WHEREAS, There were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths
6 in 2021, an increase of nearly 15% from 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2020, there were approximately 32,000 deaths in
8 the United States due to exposure to particulate matter, 37% of
9 which were directly related to fossil fuel burning; and

10 WHEREAS, Voting helps shape the conditions in which people
11 can be healthy, and good health is consistently positively
12 associated with higher likelihood of voter participation, but
13 only 53.4% of eligible adults reported voting in the November
14 2018 election; and

15 WHEREAS, Public health organizations use "National Public
16 Health Week" to educate public policymakers and public health
17 professionals on issues that are important to improving the
18 health of the people of the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, Studies show that small strategic investments in
20 disease prevention can result in significant savings in health
21 care costs; and

22 WHEREAS, Vaccination is one of the most significant public
23 health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial
24 decreases in the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths
25 associated with vaccine-preventable diseases, along with health
26 care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

27 WHEREAS, Public health professionals help communities
28 prevent, prepare for, mitigate and recover from the impact of a
29 full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks,
30 natural disasters, man-made disasters and other public health

1 emergencies; and

2 WHEREAS, Public health professionals collaborate with
3 partners outside of the health sector, including city planners,
4 transportation officials, education officials and private sector
5 businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health
6 outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, In communities across this Commonwealth, individuals
8 are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding
9 tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity and
10 preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Efforts to adequately support public health and the
13 prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a
14 health system focused on treating illness into a health system
15 focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness;
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of April 1
18 through 7, 2024, as "Public Health Week" in Pennsylvania.