
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1014 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, SAMUELSON, HENNESSEY, SONNEY, BISHOP,
MIRABITO, CLAY, FRANKEL, BURNS, LONGIETTI, BOBACK, DAVIS,
KOTIK, COHEN, GILLESPIE, SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN,
KIRKLAND, READSHAW, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, LUCAS, WHITE, VEREB,
KIM, ROSS, HARHART, MILLARD, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, P. DALEY,
ROCK, MURT, GOODMAN, MAJOR, DONATUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO,
D. COSTA, MATZIE, McNEILL, MAHONEY AND TOBASH,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 2014 as "Senior Bully Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, October is National Bullying Prevention Month and
4 this yearly campaign unites communities nationwide to educate
5 and raise awareness of bullying prevention; and

6 WHEREAS, It is generally believed that 4% to 6% of elderly
7 persons are abused; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout the world, abuse and neglect of elderly
9 persons is largely unrecognized; and

10 WHEREAS, No state or municipality is immune from this costly
11 public health and human rights crisis; and

12 WHEREAS, Research indicates that public education events such
13 as National Bullying Prevention Month are vital for raising
14 community awareness of, and mobilizing community action against,

1 elder abuse and neglect and financial exploitation of elderly
2 persons; and

3 WHEREAS, As the population ages and more Americans become
4 senior citizens with life savings, they become greater targets
5 for fraud and deception; and

6 WHEREAS, The ease of access for criminals to contact seniors
7 through the Internet and telephone increases as more creative
8 schemes emerge; and

9 WHEREAS, Senior fraud is a growing concern as millions have
10 fallen victim to scams, including Medicare scams, sweepstakes
11 and lottery scams, investment and work-at-home scams,
12 bereavement scams, identity theft, charity scams, granny scams
13 and home repair scams; and

14 WHEREAS, Senior citizens average one scam-type letter and two
15 telemarketing phone calls per week; and

16 WHEREAS, There are about five million cases of financial
17 exploitation of elderly persons in the United States each year
18 and the financial loss by victims is more than \$2.9 billion
19 annually for reported cases; and

20 WHEREAS, Approximately 1.6 to 2 million seniors become
21 victims of abuse or neglect in domestic and institutional
22 settings in the United States every year; and

23 WHEREAS, The four most common forms of elder abuse are
24 physical abuse, including sexual abuse, psychological and
25 emotional abuse, financial/material abuse and neglect; and

26 WHEREAS, Most elder abuse victims are dependent on their
27 abusers for basic needs; and

28 WHEREAS, At least one in nine Americans who are 60 years of
29 age or older has experienced some form of elder abuse; and

30 WHEREAS, Seniors who have been abused have a 300% higher risk

1 of death when compared to those who have not been abused; and

2 WHEREAS, In almost 90% of elder abuse and neglect incidents,
3 the perpetrator is a family member, and two-thirds of
4 perpetrators are adult children or spouses; and

5 WHEREAS, Almost 50% of seniors with dementia experience some
6 form of abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, For every reported incident of elder abuse, five
8 others go unreported; and

9 WHEREAS, While 91% of Federal abuse prevention dollars are
10 spent on child abuse, 7% are spent on domestic abuse and only 2%
11 are allocated to protect elderly persons; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
13 month of October 2014 as "Senior Bully Awareness Month" in
14 Pennsylvania.