
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 102 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, MURT, FREEMAN, IRVIN, KINSEY, MATZIE,
DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, SCHLOSSBERG, DUSH, SONNEY, LONGIETTI,
WATSON, O'BRIEN, A. HARRIS, MACKENZIE, PASHINSKI, BIZZARRO,
HENNESSEY, McNEILL, RYAN, CALTAGIRONE, DAVIS, WARD, NEILSON,
WARREN, MILLARD, PICKETT, READSHAW, BRIGGS AND D. COSTA,
FEBRUARY 28, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 28, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2017 as "Brain Injury Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the
7 brain secondary to trauma, stroke, aneurysms, postsurgical
8 complications or certain acquired disease processes; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 3.5 million children
10 and adults sustain an ABI each year; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 12 million Americans live with ABI,
12 including stroke; and

13 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a subset of ABI, is an
14 insult to the brain caused by a direct blow to the head, the
15 head hitting an object or the head being shaken violently; and

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.5 million children and adults
2 sustain TBIs in the United States each year; and

3 WHEREAS, Each year, 2.2 million people are treated in
4 emergency departments for TBIs, and 280,000 individuals are
5 hospitalized for TBIs; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
7 provides that the estimated economic cost of TBI in 2010,
8 including direct and indirect medical costs, was approximately
9 \$76.5 billion; and

10 WHEREAS, The CDC shares that TBI is a major cause of death
11 and disability in the United States, contributing to
12 approximately 30% of all injury deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-
14 related disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, Every day, 137 individuals in the United States die
16 from TBI-related injuries, and each year 50,000 individuals in
17 the United States die from TBI; and

18 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania reports
19 the following statistics relating to brain injuries in
20 Pennsylvania:

21 (1) 245,621 individuals are living with brain injury.

22 (2) 2,223 individuals die from brain injuries each year.

23 (3) 10,463 individuals are hospitalized each year after
24 a brain injury.

25 (4) 49,505 individuals are seen in the emergency room
26 following a brain injury each year.

27 (5) 25,975 children suffer brain injuries each year.

28 (6) 8,612 individuals sustain long-term or lifelong
29 disabilities from brain injury each year;

30 and

1 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research
2 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain
3 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss
4 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research
5 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury
6 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of
7 Philadelphia; and

8 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a
9 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury
10 Association of Pennsylvania, the Acquired Brain Injury Network
11 of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition,
12 Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation and
13 Community Providers Association; and

14 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the
15 Department of Health is also committed to expanding public
16 knowledge regarding TBI as well as increasing coordination and
17 integration within existing service delivery systems; and

18 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that
19 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community
20 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded
23 by the Department of Health and the Department of Education,
24 provides assistance to students who have sustained an ABI and
25 provides consultation through the students' school districts
26 until graduation; and

27 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives notes the importance of
28 raising awareness about the prevention and treatment of brain
29 injuries and facilitating access to treatment and services;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of March 2017 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
5 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut
6 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; Disability Rights
7 Pennsylvania, 301 Chestnut Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA
8 17101; the Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, Inc.,
9 2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446; and the Rehabilitation
10 and Community Providers Association, 777 East Park Drive, Suite
11 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111.