
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1033 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, READSHAW, MCGEEHAN, BISHOP, KIRKLAND,
KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, SONNEY, JAMES,
VEREB, McNEILL, LUCAS, MIRABITO, BOBACK, BROWNLEE, McCARTER,
DAVIS, FRANKEL, ROSS, DONATUCCI, MURT, SWANGER, MILLARD,
YOUNGBLOOD, R. BROWN, ROCK, WHITE, SABATINA, GOODMAN,
MAHONEY, MAJOR, CALTAGIRONE, GINGRICH AND GILLEN,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 2014 as "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, September 9, 2014, marks the 15th anniversary of
4 International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The first Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness
7 Day was established in 1999 to remind women of the importance of
8 abstaining from alcohol to protect the health of their
9 developing children; and

10 WHEREAS, Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is a range of
11 birth defects that can occur in any baby whose birth mother
12 drank alcohol anytime during pregnancy; and

13 WHEREAS, FASD is a group of conditions that can occur in a
14 person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy and includes
15 fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental

1 disorder and alcohol-related birth defects; and

2 WHEREAS, One out of every 100 live births in the United
3 States results in a child with FASD; and

4 WHEREAS, FASD is the leading known cause of intellectual
5 disabilities and birth defects in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, FASD can result in central nervous system damage,
7 growth deficiency, functional and cognitive impairments,
8 physical defects and mental abnormalities; and

9 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, an estimated 40,000
10 babies are born with FASD, making these disorders more common
11 than new diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, The cost of raising a child with FASD can be nine
13 times higher than the cost of raising a child without FASD; and

14 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of caring for a person affected by
15 FASD is estimated to be at least \$2 million, and the overall
16 annual cost of the consequences of FASD to the United States
17 health care system is \$6 billion to \$8 billion dollars each
18 year; and

19 WHEREAS, With education, FASD is 100% preventable by
20 enlightening the public about prevention and the severe
21 consequences of FASD; and

22 WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day also
23 creates awareness of the necessity to provide effective services
24 for individuals and families who are significantly impacted by
25 these disorders; and

26 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine, the health arm of the
27 National Academy of Sciences, has declared that of all the
28 substances of abuse, alcohol produces by far the most serious
29 neurobehavioral effects in the fetus; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate

1 September 2014 as "Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.