
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1060 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, FARINA, HENNESSEY, BROWNLEE, MCGEEHAN,
MIRABITO, SONNEY, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, DONATUCCI, THOMAS,
SCHLOSSBERG, McCARTER, MAJOR, ROCK, LUCAS, MILLARD,
YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, McNEILL AND MURT, OCTOBER 3, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 3, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2014 as "Long-Term Care
2 Residents' Rights Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million Americans live in 16,000
4 nursing homes and 1 million Americans live in 50,000 assisted
5 living and personal care homes; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 81,000 Pennsylvanians live in nursing
7 homes and 47,000 Pennsylvanians live in assisted living and
8 personal care homes; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Nursing Home Reform Act guarantees the
10 individual rights of residents of nursing, assisted living and
11 personal care homes in order to promote and maintain the dignity
12 and autonomy of residents, while State laws protect many
13 additional rights; and

14 WHEREAS, Residents and their loved ones should be aware of
15 the rights of residents, including full recognition of dignity
16 and self-determination; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term
2 Care, also known as Consumer Voice, operates as a leading
3 national advocate group representing consumers on issues related
4 to long-term care, helping to empower self-advocacy and serving
5 as a primary source of information for consumers, families,
6 caregivers and advocates; and

7 WHEREAS, Formed in 1975 as the National Citizens' Coalition
8 for Nursing Home Reform out of public concern regarding
9 substandard care in nursing homes, Consumer Voice later
10 reorganized and took its current name to represent all seniors
11 who need care; and

12 WHEREAS, Consumer Voice annually designates October as
13 National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month to honor
14 residents living in long-term care facilities and to raise
15 awareness of the rights afforded to residents under Federal and
16 State law; and

17 WHEREAS, This year's theme, "Better Staffing: The Key to
18 Better Care", recognizes staff who care for and protect the
19 rights of residents and encourages residents and others to be
20 educated about staffing and long-term care; and

21 WHEREAS, The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman in
22 the Department of Aging resolves questions and concerns about
23 the rights of older consumers receiving long-term care or
24 treatment from a long-term care service provider; and

25 WHEREAS, The office informs residents about their rights,
26 including privacy, freedom from abuse, neglect and exploitation,
27 expression of grievances without fear of retaliation and
28 confidentiality; and

29 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEER)
30 program assists the office by training residents in long-term

1 care facilities about their rights and how to advocate and
2 maintain their rights; and

3 WHEREAS, Through PEER, residents learn to work with facility
4 staff to enhance the quality of care and life for all residents;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Residents deserve to be honored and celebrated, to
7 have their rich individuality recognized and to be educated
8 about long-term care staffing and residents' rights; therefore
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of October 2014 as "Long-Term Care Residents' Rights
12 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and
14 recognize the residents of nursing, assisted living and personal
15 care homes, particularly those who volunteer with the PEER
16 program, and the staff who work with, care for and protect the
17 rights of residents; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives praise the good
19 work done by the professionals and volunteers of the Office of
20 the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and acknowledge their service
21 and dedication in protecting the rights, dignity and value of
22 residents in long-term care facilities.