
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 205 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, DiGIROLAMO, CONKLIN, KULA, COHEN,
VEREB, MOLCHANY, P. DALEY, HENNESSEY, KIM, B. BOYLE,
WHEATLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, J. HARRIS, SNYDER, MCCARTER, O'BRIEN,
KORTZ, SACCONI, BROWNLEE, D. COSTA, O'NEILL, K. BOYLE,
SAMUELSON, ROSS, MCGEEHAN, PICKETT, MILLARD, HESS, KINSEY,
SONNEY, BARRAR, READSHAW, FLYNN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, NEUMAN,
MACKENZIE, HAHN, PARKER, DENLINGER, QUINN, MOUL, MAHONEY,
MARSICO, HARHART, SANTARSIERO, FREEMAN, ROEBUCK, LONGIETTI,
KAVULICH, ROZZI, BISHOP, DeLUCA, FARINA, DEASY, WHITE,
GOODMAN, MICOZZIE, GINGRICH, EVERETT, SWANGER, GRELL, MAJOR,
CLYMER, WATSON AND V. BROWN, APRIL 3, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 3, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2013 as "Mental Health Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mental health is critical to the overall health and
4 well-being of individuals, families, communities and businesses;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mental health problems can affect individuals of any
7 race, religion, age or economic status; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 20% of Americans 18 years of
9 age and older, about one in five adults, suffered from a
10 diagnosable mental disorder in a given year; and

11 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses are serious medical illnesses that
12 cannot be overcome through willpower and are not related to a
13 person's character or intelligence; and

1 WHEREAS, People with mental illness have the same needs and
2 are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans, but they
3 experience discrimination in education, employment and housing;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the
6 prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young
7 adulthood; and

8 WHEREAS, The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health
9 Services Administration reports that 3.1 million youths 12 to 17
10 years of age, about 12.7%, received treatment or counseling for
11 problems with emotions or behavior in a specialty mental health
12 setting in the past 12 months; and

13 WHEREAS, A lack of full and proper treatment for individuals
14 with mental illness costs public and private employers billions
15 of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and low
16 productivity; and

17 WHEREAS, With proper treatment and support, individuals with
18 mental illness can lead full, productive lives; and

19 WHEREAS, Early identification and treatment of mental
20 illness, as well as ensuring access to treatment and recovery
21 supports, which are proven effective, are vitally important;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 month of May 2013 as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in
25 Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That all citizens, government agencies, public and
27 private institutions, businesses and schools be urged to
28 recommit our communities to increasing awareness and
29 understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and
30 accessible services for all people with mental illness.