
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 222 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, PICKETT, COHEN, MCGEEHAN, ROZZI,
NEILSON, V. BROWN, B. BOYLE, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, NEUMAN,
P. DALEY, CALTAGIRONE, MIRABITO, LONGIETTI, KORTZ,
SCHLOSSBERG, KAVULICH, DAVIS, SNYDER, SONNEY, VEREB, BROOKS,
O'NEILL, O'BRIEN, PAINTER, MUSTIO, MACKENZIE, DONATUCCI,
BISHOP, RAPP, GODSHALL, DeLUCA, HENNESSEY, HARHART, FARINA,
MILLARD, BARRAR, READSHAW, TALLMAN, THOMAS, SABATINA, WATSON,
ROSS, GIBBONS, MAHONEY AND KAUFFMAN, APRIL 8, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 8, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2013, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability
4 requiring greater recognition and understanding to ensure that
5 all individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder are
6 accurately diagnosed and appropriately supported throughout
7 their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental
9 disability resulting in significant impairment of an
10 individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive
11 behaviors and understand verbal, nonverbal and reciprocal
12 communication; and

13 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder is the result of a
14 neurological disorder affecting brain function, the complexity

1 of which few members of the general public understand; and

2 WHEREAS, Although a cure for autism spectrum disorder has not
3 been found, individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder
4 can be assisted in reaching their greatest potential through
5 accurate early diagnosis, appropriate education and
6 intervention; and

7 WHEREAS, Nationally about 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys
8 are living with an autism spectrum disorder and prevalence
9 figures are growing; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with an autism spectrum
11 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few
12 years as adolescents age into adulthood, and autism spectrum
13 disorder has become an urgent public health concern that is more
14 common than previously thought; and

15 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare created the Office
16 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism
17 Services, to provide expertise and support for all agencies
18 serving Pennsylvanians living with an autism spectrum disorder;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The creation of the Bureau of Autism Services, along
21 with the Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services
22 and support for children and adults living with an autism
23 spectrum disorder, will bring about a new day for those
24 individuals and their families; and

25 WHEREAS, The sixth annual World Autism Awareness Day is April
26 2, 2013, and every year autism organizations around the world
27 celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising
28 events, as well as engage in activities that help to increase
29 and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and impart
30 information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and

1 early intervention; and

2 WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day celebrates the unique
3 talents and skills of persons with an autism spectrum disorder;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
6 2, 2013, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and
7 urge its observance throughout this Commonwealth for the benefit
8 of all individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder and
9 their families.