
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 792 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, CHARLTON, HARKINS, TOOHL, RYAN,
KAUFFMAN, PASHINSKI, MACKENZIE, WARD, MATZIE, R. BROWN,
JAMES, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, BIZZARRO, DEAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
BURNS, STURLA, BARBIN, PICKETT, LONGIETTI, EVERETT, DRISCOLL,
BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, J. McNEILL, DIGIROLAMO, SCHWEYER, IRVIN,
ROZZI, MURT, McCLINTON, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, MARSHALL,
DEASY, O'NEILL, DALEY, NEILSON AND DeLUCA, APRIL 3, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 3, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2, 2018, 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
15 of which few members of the general public understand; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Nationally, an estimated 1 in 68 children and 1 in
6 42 boys are living with autism spectrum disorder and prevalence
7 figures are growing; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of adults living with autism spectrum
9 disorder is expected to increase dramatically over the next few
10 years as adolescents age into adulthood; and

11 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorder has become an urgent public
12 health concern that is more common than previously thought; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services created the Office
14 of Developmental Programs, which includes the Bureau of Autism
15 Services, to provide expertise and support for all agencies
16 serving Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorder; and

17 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services, along with the
18 Commonwealth's commitment to fund additional services and
19 support for children and adults living with autism spectrum
20 disorder, continues to better the lives of affected individuals
21 and their families; and

22 WHEREAS, On April 2, 2008, the United Nations observed the
23 first official "World Autism Awareness Day," highlighting the
24 need to improve the lives of children and adults who suffer from
25 autism spectrum disorder; and

26 WHEREAS, The 10th annual "World Autism Awareness Day" is
27 April 2, 2018; and

28 WHEREAS, Every year, autism organizations around the world
29 celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising
30 events and activities that increase and develop world knowledge

1 of the autism pandemic and impart information regarding the
2 importance of early diagnosis and early intervention; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2018 "World Autism Awareness Day" observance at
4 the United Nations headquarters is focusing on the importance of
5 empowering women and girls with autism spectrum disorder and
6 involving them in policy and decision making to address the
7 discrimination they face; and

8 WHEREAS, "World Autism Awareness Day" celebrates the unique
9 talents and skills of individuals with autism spectrum disorder;
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
12 2, 2018, as "World Autism Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
15 observance of "World Autism Awareness Day" throughout this
16 Commonwealth for the benefit of all individuals living with
17 autism spectrum disorder and their families.