
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 139 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, MUTH, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, HAYWOOD,
BREWSTER, KANE AND COSTA, JUNE 29, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 29, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 30, 2023, as "Whistleblower Appreciation Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights,
4 10 sailors and marines "blew the whistle" on fraud and
5 misconduct that was harmful to the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of our nation unanimously
7 supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by
8 releasing government records and providing monetary assistance
9 for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent
10 retaliation against the whistleblowers; and

11 WHEREAS, On July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full
12 support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental
13 Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation
14 in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 100 years later in 1863, the Federal False
16 Claims Act was enacted after Civil War soldiers were threatened
17 into silence for their attempt to report rotten food, sickly
18 mules and defective weapons; and

1 WHEREAS, Modern day whistleblowers face the same problems as
2 their Civil War counterparts, risking their jobs, pensions and
3 health care to protect us and our tax dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, With nearly half of all fraud discovered by tips,
5 whistleblowers provide critical information that leads to the
6 recovery of millions of dollars of taxpayer money every year and
7 serve the public interest by ensuring accountability and
8 transparency in government; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth should support the brave
10 individuals who choose to speak out and strengthen laws that
11 allow them to raise issues without fear of retaliation;
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 30, 2023, as
14 "Whistleblower Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the contributions of
17 whistleblowers, whose courage reminds us that government should
18 be transparent and accountable to the people; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Commonwealth to
20 strengthen its laws so that workers, contractors and the public
21 are protected to "blow the whistle" on fraud, consistent with
22 the intent of the Founding Fathers of our nation.