
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 303 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, WASHINGTON, WOZNIAK, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF,
TEPLITZ, FERLO, BAKER, KASUNIC, ERICKSON, BROWNE, BREWSTER,
STACK, EICHELBERGER, SMITH, FONTANA, COSTA, ARGALL, RAFFERTY,
PILEGGI, YUDICHAK, ALLOWAY, VANCE AND WHITE,
FEBRUARY 28, 2014

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2014 as "Child Abuse Prevention
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than one million children in the
4 United States are documented as the victims of child abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2012, there were 3,565 substantiated cases of
6 child abuse in this Commonwealth, with 33 children dying as a
7 result of abuse and neglect; and

8 WHEREAS, More than half of the perpetrators in 2012 had a
9 parental relationship with the child; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2010 through 2011, the Pennsylvania Coalition
11 Against Rape provided services to more than 7,786 child victims
12 of sexual violence; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2012, 79% of substantiated reports were made by
14 mandated reporters; and

15 WHEREAS, Child abuse crosses all racial, economic and
16 geographic boundaries; and

1 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance trained more
2 than 30,100 professionals and community members in 2010 through
3 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, The damaging effects of child abuse include, but are
5 not limited to, school failure, alcohol and drug abuse and
6 physical and psychological difficulties; and

7 WHEREAS, Child abuse can and must be prevented and awareness
8 raised so that families learn they have access to community
9 resources which offer support, information and guidance to help
10 stop or prevent abusive behaviors or conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, Many Pennsylvanians in schools, social service
12 agencies, churches and neighborhood groups throughout this
13 Commonwealth, including the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance
14 and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, are working to
15 support the victims of child abuse and prevent future abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted the Newborn Protection
17 Act, or Safe Haven Law, in 2002; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2003, an amendment to the Constitution of
19 Pennsylvania was approved permitting child victims to testify
20 electronically; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2006, the General Assembly enacted a
22 comprehensive child abuse reform package (Act 179), updating the
23 Child Protective Services Law and lengthening the statute of
24 limitations for sexual offenses against children; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2011, the General Assembly enacted legislation
26 (Act 111) to ensure that the Commonwealth meets federally
27 mandated standards under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and
28 Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248, 120 Stat. 587) by
29 strengthening sex offender registration and notification; and

30 WHEREAS, Also in 2011, the General Assembly created the Task

1 Force on Child Protection to examine the practices, processes
2 and procedures relating to the response to child abuse and
3 reporting of child abuse and to make recommendations to the
4 Governor and General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, In spite of these efforts, more needs to be done to
6 guarantee a childhood free of abuse and victimization to every
7 child in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2014
9 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend those persons and community
12 groups that work to treat and prevent child abuse and urge all
13 Pennsylvanians to do their part in preventing the tragedy of
14 child abuse.