
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 38 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, WOZNIAK, HAYWOOD, BAKER,
TEPLITZ, EICHELBERGER, KITCHEN, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA,
FARNESE, ALLOWAY, PILEGGI, BREWSTER, HUTCHINSON, COSTA, YAW
AND SMITH, MARCH 2, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 2, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2015 as "Brain Injury Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brain injury refers to the death or injury of brain
4 cells and the disruption of neural pathways resulting in changes
5 in the way a person thinks, feels and acts; and

6 WHEREAS, Acquired brain injury is an injury to the brain
7 secondary to trauma, stroke, postsurgical complications,
8 aneurysm, high fever, infection, near drowning, near
9 suffocation, near electrocution, poisoning and other conditions
10 which interfere with delivery of blood or oxygen to the brain;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, More than 3.3 million Americans sustain an acquired
13 brain injury, including stroke, annually; and

14 WHEREAS, Brain injury due to trauma may be caused by a direct
15 blow to the head or being shaken violently and may be caused by
16 falls, motor vehicle crashes, bicycle accidents, sports and
17 recreation injuries, shaken baby syndrome, gunshot wounds and

1 assaults; and

2 WHEREAS, The signs and symptoms of traumatic brain injury can
3 be subtle and may not appear until days or weeks after the
4 injury or may even be missed; and

5 WHEREAS, Mild traumatic brain injury is often underdiagnosed
6 or misdiagnosed, with symptoms not always immediately apparent;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of
9 disability and death in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, The cost of treating, rehabilitating and caring for
11 the victims of traumatic brain injury in the United States is
12 approximately \$76.5 billion each year; and

13 WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 60% of the adult
14 offender population in United States prisons and jails has had
15 an event that could cause a traumatic brain injury; and

16 WHEREAS, The number of emergency room visits for traumatic
17 brain injury from sports-related and recreation-related
18 activities increased significantly from 153,375 to 248,418 over
19 the period of 2001 to 2009; and

20 WHEREAS, Nationally, children and youth 5 to 19 years of age
21 accounted for approximately 380,000 traumatic brain injury-
22 related emergency room visits; and

23 WHEREAS, More than 215,000 Pennsylvanians are living with a
24 long-term disability resulting from traumatic brain injury; and

25 WHEREAS, Nearly 90,000 Pennsylvanians are treated and
26 released from emergency rooms for traumatic brain injury
27 annually; and

28 WHEREAS, More than 32,000 Pennsylvania children under 21
29 years of age have a medical history that includes a
30 hospitalization for traumatic brain injury; and

1 WHEREAS, Brain injury is the signature injury of those
2 military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of the leading
4 research centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for
5 Brain Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the
6 Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma
7 Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center
8 for Injury Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of
9 Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, Three organizations in this Commonwealth
11 specifically devoted to brain injury include the Brain Injury
12 Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., the Acquired Brain Injury
13 Network of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Brain Injury
14 Coalition, and two organizations with a strong focus on brain
15 injury include the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania and
16 the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association; and

17 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has agencies with a specific focus
18 on brain injury, including the Department of Health Traumatic
19 Brain Injury Advisory Board; and

20 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has several government programs
21 that administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and
22 community support programs, including the Department of Health
23 Head Injury Program and the Office of Long-Term Living CommCare
24 Waiver program; and

25 WHEREAS, The best approach to the silent epidemic of brain
26 injury is to promote the awareness, prevention and treatment of
27 brain injuries; and

28 WHEREAS, Brain injury prevention and access to necessary
29 treatment and services can be promoted through community
30 education and a public awareness campaign; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2015
2 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
5 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut
6 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; to the Disability
7 Rights Network of Pennsylvania, 1414 North Cameron Street, Suite
8 C, Harrisburg, PA 17103; to the Acquired Brain Injury Network of
9 Pennsylvania, 2275 Glenview Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446; and to
10 the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association, 777 E.
11 Park Drive, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111.