
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 54 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, YAW, EICHELBERGER, BROWNE,
KILLION, LANGERHOLC, VULAKOVICH, MENSCH, RAFFERTY,
RESCHENTHALER, FOLMER AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 22, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 22, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2017 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 (ABI) is an injury to the
7 brain secondary to a trauma, stroke, aneurysm, postsurgical
8 complication or certain acquired disease process; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 3.5 million children
10 and adults sustain an ABI each year; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 12 million Americans live with an ABI,
12 including stroke; and

13 WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI), a subset of ABI, is an
14 injury to the brain caused by a direct blow to the head, the
15 head hitting an object or the head being shaken violently; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.5 million children and adults
17 sustain TBIs in the United States each year; and

1 WHEREAS, Each year, 2.2 million individuals are treated in
2 emergency departments for TBIs and 280,000 individuals are
3 hospitalized for TBIs; and

4 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
5 provides that the estimated economic cost of TBIs in 2010,
6 including direct and indirect medical costs, was approximately
7 \$76.5 billion; and

8 WHEREAS, The CDC shares that TBI is a major cause of death
9 and disability in the United States, contributing to
10 approximately 30% of all injury deaths; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.3 million Americans live with TBI-
12 related disabilities; and

13 WHEREAS, Every day, 137 individuals in the United States die
14 from TBI-related injuries and each year 50,000 individuals in
15 the United States die from TBIs; and

16 WHEREAS, The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania reports
17 the following statistics relating to brain injuries in
18 Pennsylvania:

19 (1) 245,621 individuals are living with brain injury.

20 (2) 2,223 individuals die from brain injuries each year.

21 (3) 10,463 individuals are hospitalized each year after
22 a brain injury.

23 (4) 49,505 individuals are seen in the emergency room
24 following a brain injury each year.

25 (5) 25,975 children suffer brain injuries each year.

26 (6) 8,612 individuals sustain long-term or lifelong
27 disabilities from brain injury each year;

28 and

29 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a number of leading research
30 centers for brain injury, including the Penn Center for Brain

1 Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania, the Moss
2 Rehabilitation Research Institute, the Brain Trauma Research
3 Center at the University of Pittsburgh and the Center for Injury
4 Research and Prevention at the Children's Hospital of
5 Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, Other organizations in this Commonwealth with a
7 strong focus on brain injury include the Brain Injury
8 Association of Pennsylvania, the Acquired Brain Injury Network
9 of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition,
10 Disability Rights Pennsylvania and the Rehabilitation and
11 Community Providers Association; and

12 WHEREAS, The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board within the
13 Department of Health is committed to expanding public knowledge
14 regarding TBI as well as increasing coordination and integration
15 within existing service delivery systems; and

16 WHEREAS, Additional programs within this Commonwealth that
17 administer specialized brain injury rehabilitation and community
18 support include the Head Injury Program and the CommCare Waiver;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's BrainSTEPS Program, currently funded
21 by the Department of Health and the Department of Education,
22 provides assistance to students who have sustained an ABI and
23 provides consultation through the students' school districts
24 until graduation; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2017
26 as "Brain Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
29 the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, Inc., 950 Walnut
30 Bottom Road, Suite 15-229, Carlisle, PA 17015; the Acquired

1 Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, Inc., 2275 Glenview Drive,
2 Lansdale, PA 19446; and the Rehabilitation and Community
3 Providers Association, 777 East Park Drive, Suite 300,
4 Harrisburg, PA 17111.