
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 192 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, SANCHEZ, CABELL, McNEILL, MADDEN, FLICK,
SAPPEY, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG,
HANBIDGE, HOWARD, CIRESI, PARKER AND CERRATO, AUGUST 29, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, AUGUST 29, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2023 as "Disabilities Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1955, the Pennsylvania General
4 Assembly passed the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, which
5 prohibited discrimination in the areas of employment, housing
6 and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, familial
7 status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age,
8 sex and national origin; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 26, 1973, the Congress of the United
10 States passed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which was the
11 precursor to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act
12 of 1990, and prohibited the Federal Government, as an employer,
13 from discriminating against qualified individuals with
14 disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed
16 into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA),
17 which served as the world's first comprehensive civil rights law

1 for individuals with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
3 Prevention, up to 1 in 4 individuals, or approximately 61
4 million individuals, in the United States have a disability; and

5 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, approximately 26%, or an
6 estimated 2.6 million residents, have a disability; and

7 WHEREAS, According to 2020 data, the prevalence of disability
8 in Pennsylvania by race and ethnicity was 23.4% among White
9 communities, 41.3% among those of Hispanic or Latino origin,
10 28.8% among Black or African-American communities and 35% among
11 individuals of other races and multiracial communities; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the data, the economic consequences of
13 having a disability in America are compelling; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 21.3% of working-age United States
15 residents with a disability are employed as compared to 65.4% of
16 working-age United States residents who do not have a
17 disability; and

18 WHEREAS, This presents a quality-of-life issue as in 2018 the
19 poverty rate of working-age individuals with disabilities in
20 this Commonwealth was estimated to be 28.2% as compared to 9.1%
21 for working-age individuals without a disability; and

22 WHEREAS, Although the act of fostering awareness about the
23 issue of our Commonwealth's disabled population is important,
24 the real objective lies in ensuring that Pennsylvanians with
25 disabilities are provided the dignity, respect and
26 accommodations that they deserve; and

27 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to recognize the
28 prevalence of the systemic inequities that exist within our
29 society pertaining to the treatment of our residents with
30 disabilities as well as acknowledge the many invaluable efforts

1 that have been made throughout the history of our nation to
2 institute much-needed civil protections for all residents of the
3 United States; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
5 month of March 2023 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in
6 Pennsylvania; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
8 Pennsylvanians to learn more about the many unique challenges
9 confronting this Commonwealth's residents who have a disability
10 and assume the task of fostering a greater degree of awareness
11 and education regarding this critically important subject.