
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 263 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KIM, YOUNGBLOOD, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, PASHINSKI,
BIZZARRO, TOOHIL, FREEMAN, DEAN, V. BROWN AND VAZQUEZ,
APRIL 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 16, 2017, as "National Healthcare Decisions
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania places the highest
4 priority on the health and well-being of all its residents; and

5 WHEREAS, Honoring patient preferences serves as a critical
6 element in providing quality end-of-life care; and

7 WHEREAS, Every adult has the right to decide their own health
8 care treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Adults are provided the right to appoint a trusted
10 person as a health care agent or surrogate in order to make
11 health care decisions for them in the event of incapacity
12 through the execution of advance health care planning documents;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The "National Healthcare Decisions Day" initiative
15 is a collaboration of national, state and community
16 organizations created to inspire, educate and empower the public
17 and providers about the importance of advance care planning; and

1 WHEREAS, The "National Healthcare Decisions Day" observance
2 was founded in 2006 by Nathan Kottkamp under the name of
3 Virginia Advance Directives Day; and

4 WHEREAS, Since that time, "National Healthcare Decisions Day"
5 has evolved into a nationwide advocacy effort effective in
6 educating health care providers and the general public about the
7 importance of enabling patients to control the fate of their own
8 health care; and

9 WHEREAS, The "National Healthcare Decisions Day" theme for
10 2017 is "It always seems too early, until it's too late"; and

11 WHEREAS, For many years, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 maintained an antiquated method to enable its residents to make
13 health care decisions concerning powers of attorney and other
14 advance directives; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 29, 2006, Act 169 of 2006 was enacted,
16 significantly enhancing the right and ability of individuals to
17 control the fate of their own health care; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite this vital legislation, only a fraction of
19 adults in Pennsylvania have an advance directive in place; and

20 WHEREAS, Additional outreach and education is necessary to
21 ensure that the general public is better informed about the
22 utility of advance directives; and

23 WHEREAS, Advance directives normalize the concept and
24 conversation about preparing for possible end-of-life health
25 care decisions; and

26 WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations are strongly
27 encouraged to raise further awareness about "National Healthcare
28 Decisions Day" by utilizing outreach methods that include
29 conducting presentations, engaging faith-based communities,
30 hosting panel discussions and partnering with health care

1 providers to convene local health fairs; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
3 16, 2017 as "National Healthcare Decisions Day" in Pennsylvania;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
6 adults in Pennsylvania to broach meaningful conversations with
7 family members, loved ones and primary care physicians about
8 planning ahead for possible end-of-life health care decisions.