
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 189 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, BOSCOLA, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE,
SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, MARTIN, HUGHES, COMMITTA, STREET,
KEARNEY, FONTANA, COSTA, SCHWANK, COLLETT AND CULVER,
NOVEMBER 9, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2023 as "Pregnancy and Infant
2 Loss Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every year, approximately 1 million pregnancies in
4 the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of
5 a newborn; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 25% of all pregnancies end in
7 miscarriage, which is the loss of a baby before the 20th week of
8 pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, About 1% of all pregnancies, approximately 24,000
10 pregnancies, end in stillbirth, which is the loss of a baby at
11 or after the 20th week of pregnancy; and

12 WHEREAS, The primary causes of infant mortality, which is
13 defined as the death of an infant within the first year of life,
14 are birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, maternal
15 pregnancy complications, sudden infant death syndrome and
16 injuries; and

17 WHEREAS, Black parents are significantly more likely to

1 experience pregnancy loss or infant death than white or Hispanic
2 parents, and these disparities are likely the result of lower
3 quality of maternal health care, socioeconomic factors and
4 structural racism; and

5 WHEREAS, The loss of a pregnancy or death of an infant are
6 deeply painful experiences which can affect families long after
7 the loss, and many parents endure these losses silently and
8 without the support of their workplace or larger community; and

9 WHEREAS, People who have experienced pregnancy loss or infant
10 loss should have ample opportunity to grieve, including the
11 ability to take bereavement leave from work; and

12 WHEREAS, A public that is informed and educated about
13 pregnancy and infant loss can better learn how to respond with
14 compassion to affected individuals and families; and

15 WHEREAS, Professionals who may engage with individuals
16 following pregnancy loss or infant loss, such as physicians,
17 clergy, emergency medical technicians, funeral directors, police
18 officers, public health nurses, educators and employers can
19 better serve families if they are better educated about these
20 experiences; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1988, the month of October was officially
22 proclaimed as "National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness
23 Month" to recognize the grief of families, remember all the
24 pregnancies and infants lost and increase awareness about these
25 issues; and

26 WHEREAS, Many organizations continue to recognize pregnancy
27 and infant loss during the month of October; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2023
29 as "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.