
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 35 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, HAYWOOD,
COLEMAN, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, COMMITTA, SCHWANK,
HUTCHINSON, LAUGHLIN, COLLETT, COSTA, MILLER, DILLON AND
BREWSTER, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 21, 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, which
17 served as the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for

1 individuals with disabilities; and

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

5 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, approximately 26%, or an
6 estimated 2.7 million adults, have a disability; and

7 WHEREAS, According to data obtained from the 2017 American
8 Community Survey, the prevalence of disability in this
9 Commonwealth by race was 11.3% among Caucasians, 13.1% among
10 those of Hispanic or Latino origin, 16.2% among African
11 Americans, 16.3% among individuals of other races and 16.3%
12 among Native Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, According to United States Census data, the economic
14 consequences of having a disability in America are compelling;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor
17 Statistics, only 19.1% of working-age Americans with a
18 disability are employed as compared to 63.7% of working-age
19 nondisabled Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, This presents a quality-of-life issue, as in 2016,
21 the poverty rate of working-age individuals with disabilities in
22 this Commonwealth was estimated to be 28% as compared to 9.4%
23 for working-age individuals without a disability; and

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

29 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to recognize the
30 prevalence of the systemic inequities that exist within our

1 society pertaining to the treatment of our residents with
2 disabilities as well as to acknowledge the many invaluable
3 efforts that have been made throughout the history of our nation
4 to institute civil protections for all Americans; therefore be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2023
7 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to
10 learn about the many unique challenges confronting this
11 Commonwealth's residents who are disabled and assume the task of
12 fostering a greater degree of awareness and education regarding
13 this critically important subject.