
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 69 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, CAPPELLETTI,
FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, KANE AND STREET, MARCH 15, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 15, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 31, 2023, as "Cesar Chavez Day" in
2 Pennsylvania to honor an American labor leader who advanced
3 the rights of farm workers and advocated for labor reform in
4 this Commonwealth and across this nation.

5 WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez was a member of the Community Service
6 Organization that advocated for and worked on registering farm
7 laborers to vote in California; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1962, Mr. Chavez founded the National Farm
9 Workers Association to increase workers' rights throughout
10 California by securing employment and increasing wages; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez was one of the earliest labor leaders
12 that exclusively used nonviolent methods like peaceful protests
13 to achieve reforms; and

14 WHEREAS, From 1965 through 1970, Mr. Chavez led a successful
15 nationwide boycott against grapes grown using nonunion labor,
16 resulting in a new collective bargaining agreement for more than
17 10,000 farm workers across California, increasing their wages,
18 implementing new safety measures and offering a health insurance
19 plan; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez allied with many political leaders, such
2 as California Governor Jerry Brown and President John F.
3 Kennedy, to advance the rights of laborers; and

4 WHEREAS, This culminated in the passage of the California
5 Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975 that established a
6 labor review board allowing investigations into unfair labor
7 practices for farm workers in California; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Chavez extended his advocacy outside of
9 California when he protested an Arizona law that would prevent
10 farm workers from organizing, boycotting or entering into
11 collective bargaining agreements; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1972, Mr. Chavez gave a speech to 2,000 coal mine
13 workers in Lattimer, Pennsylvania, on the 75th anniversary of
14 the Lattimer Strike, in which 19 coal miners were killed; and

15 WHEREAS, In that speech, Mr. Chavez stated that workers all
16 throughout the United States faced similar struggles in their
17 attempts to unionize, stating that "the lives of those miners,
18 they too are immigrants, they too have strange sounding names,
19 they too speak a foreign language, they too [were] trying to
20 build a union"; and

21 WHEREAS, In recognition of his work in fighting for the
22 rights of farm workers and his use of peaceful protest tactics,
23 Mr. Chavez was awarded a posthumous Presidential Medal of
24 Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1994; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2014, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 31
26 of every year to be "Cesar Chavez Day" to honor Mr. Chavez's
27 life and legacy; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize March 31, 2023, as "Cesar
29 Chavez Day" in Pennsylvania to honor an American labor leader
30 who advanced the rights of farm workers and advocated for labor

1 reform in this Commonwealth and across this nation.