
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 115 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SAPPEY, CERRATO, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, KAZEEM,
KINSEY, SANCHEZ, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, VENKAT, HADDOCK, KHAN,
T. DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, STURLA, CIRESI, FLEMING, BOROWSKI,
HOWARD, NEILSON AND SCOTT, MAY 19, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 19, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 25, 2023, as "Trauma and Mental Health Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Trauma is an emotional response to a distressing
4 event or situation that breaks an individual's sense of security
5 and impacts the individual mentally or physically, or both; and

6 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention and Kaiser Permanente completed a groundbreaking
8 study on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that showed how
9 traumatic experiences in childhood, such as neglect, abuse and
10 observing violence, can increase the likelihood of:

11 (1) negative health outcomes, such as heart disease,
12 lung disease and various types of cancer; and

13 (2) negative social outcomes, such as homelessness,
14 criminal justice involvement and employment challenges;

15 and

16 WHEREAS, Studies done on this topic in the years following
17 further detailed the negative impact that trauma has on not just

1 individuals, but also society as a whole through negative social
2 outcomes; and

3 WHEREAS, The ACEs study stressed that the negative impact of
4 trauma on individuals can be mitigated with proper access to
5 mental health supports and services; and

6 WHEREAS, Being trauma-informed means that we acknowledge the
7 presence of trauma and the role that it can play throughout
8 someone's life after past traumatic experiences; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania should be a leading state in the effort
10 to become healing-centered; and

11 WHEREAS, Former Governor Tom Wolf started the process of
12 making Pennsylvania a trauma-informed and healing-centered state
13 by implementing the Trauma-Informed PA Plan and creating the
14 Office of Advocacy and Reform to expand mental health resources;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, By recognizing a day for trauma and mental health
17 awareness, we embrace values that will make us sensitive to how
18 traumatic experiences impact an individual's overall well-being
19 and society as a whole, and we can ensure that those who have
20 had traumatic experiences receive proper supports and services
21 to become successful members of society; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 25,
23 2023, as "Trauma and Mental Health Awareness Day" in
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all
26 individuals and leaders in this Commonwealth to:

27 (1) recognize that trauma exists and has widespread
28 effects;

29 (2) recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma;

30 (3) respond proactively; and

1 (4) resist retraumatization so that individuals can
2 heal.