
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 116 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, BIZZARRO, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL,
CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, READSHAW, SCHLOSSBERG,
MARKOSEK, T. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, NEILSON, McCLINTON,
WARREN, BULLOCK, DAVIDSON, FITZGERALD AND WHEATLEY,
MARCH 6, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 6, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 30, 2019, as "Violent Crime Survivors'
2 Assistance and Grief Support Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Violent crimes impact every community in this
4 Commonwealth, with more than 40,000 offenses committed in 2016;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly half of these violent crimes were committed
7 in the five-county southeastern region of this Commonwealth,
8 including more than 15,000 in Philadelphia and more than 2,100
9 in Delaware County; and

10 WHEREAS, Violent crimes leave a trail of victims and
11 survivors who need and deserve support services provided with
12 compassion and accountability as they cope and recover; and

13 WHEREAS, The victims' movement began slowly after World War
14 II, fueled by the recognition of the evils of genocide
15 perpetrated by Nazi Germany; and

16 WHEREAS, The movement gained momentum in the 1970s and 1980s

1 with rising social consciousness and through the passage of
2 Federal laws, including the Victim and Witness Protection Act of
3 1982, the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 and the
4 Violence Against Women Act of 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes victims' rights to
6 receive advocacy and notification of significant actions in
7 criminal proceedings and their rights to restitution,
8 compensation and prompt return of seized property; and

9 WHEREAS, Crime victims who do not receive support services
10 are more likely to develop a substance abuse problem, experience
11 depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, become
12 underemployed or unemployed and have higher health care costs
13 over their lifetime; and

14 WHEREAS, An estimated 370,000 victims have received support
15 services through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
16 Delinquency's Office of Victims' Services; and

17 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
18 recognizes violence as a public health issue that can be reduced
19 with proven prevention programs addressing social, emotional,
20 behavioral and family dynamics; and

21 WHEREAS, Municipal support for reducing violence and
22 providing services to survivors is imperative for building
23 strong links between the community, law enforcement, support
24 groups and other entities; and

25 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the bravery of crime
26 survivors and the dedication of those providing vital help to
27 survivors across this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must raise awareness of the
29 resources and support services available to all victims and
30 survivors of violent crimes; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
2 30, 2019, as "Violent Crime Survivors' Assistance and Grief
3 Support Day" in Pennsylvania.