

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 366 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, HILL-EVANS, GREINER, McNEILL, POWELL, HEFFLEY, D. MILLER, PISCIOTTANO, HOHENSTEIN, LABS, HADDOCK, VENKAT, KINSEY, KULIK, MALAGARI, DELLOSO, SCHLOSSBERG, CURRY, SANCHEZ, MERSKI, HARKINS, NEILSON, BELLMON AND KHAN, APRIL 3, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 29, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 9 through 15, 2024, as "National
2 Stuttering Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The National Stuttering Association celebrates
4 "National Stuttering Awareness Week" annually the second week of
5 May to reach the thousands of people who stutter, feel alone and
6 isolated, and to spread knowledge about stuttering; and

7 WHEREAS, Stuttering is a speech disorder in which sounds,
8 syllables or words are repeated and may be accompanied by rapid
9 blinking, lip tremors, speech blocks and interjections, making
10 it difficult to communicate; and

11 WHEREAS, Stuttering, also referred to as stammering or
12 disfluent speech, is a genetically influenced condition that can
13 develop in duration or appear suddenly, with symptoms varying
14 over time; and

15 WHEREAS, The most common form of stuttering, developmental
16 stuttering, occurs early during speech and language learning,

1 but strokes or head or brain injuries may result in neurogenic
2 stuttering; and

3 WHEREAS, There are many harmful and incorrect myths about the
4 causes of stuttering, including that it is the result of
5 shyness, nervousness, self-consciousness, lower intelligence,
6 less capability, emotional trauma or bad parenting; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 1% of the adult population stutters,
8 in every nation and language, equating to about 3 million
9 Americans and 130,000 Pennsylvanians; and

10 WHEREAS, Adult males are three to four times more likely to
11 stutter than adult females, and male children are two times more
12 likely to stutter than female children; and

13 WHEREAS, Usually beginning between the ages of two to five
14 years, approximately 5% of children go through a period of
15 stuttering, ~~including famous Pennsylvania natives, President~~ <--
16 ~~Joseph Biden, Jimmy Stewart and Wilt Chamberlain;~~ and

17 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of children who stutter stop by
18 school age; and

19 WHEREAS, For people who stutter, the lost control of their
20 speech mechanism is not the biggest priority, but it may have an
21 impact on their quality of life and interpersonal relationships;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Children who stutter are at a higher risk of
24 bullying, which may lead to avoiding speaking or altering their
25 communication style, causing further psychological distress or
26 unnecessary tension; and

27 WHEREAS, Individuals who stutter may be referred to speech-
28 language pathologists to help bolster confidence and
29 communication by focusing speech therapy on a place of
30 destigmatization; and

1 WHEREAS, It is also important that school personnel be
2 trained in working with students who stutter, and students who
3 stutter should be given the tools to express their feelings and
4 experiences; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 week of May 9 through 15, 2024, as "National Stuttering
7 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.