
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 58 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, V. BROWN, KOTIK, KINSEY, BISHOP, FRANKEL,
HENNESSEY, ROZZI, BROWNLEE, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS,
DRISCOLL, DUSH, SONNEY, LONGIETTI, KIM, DIGIROLAMO, KILLION,
COHEN, C. PARKER, CALTAGIRONE, J. HARRIS, GRELL, READSHAW,
O'BRIEN, W. KELLER, D. COSTA, MILLARD, WHEELAND, WATSON AND
ROSS, FEBRUARY 2, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 2, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 2015 as "National Children's Dental Health
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA)
4 sponsors "National Children's Dental Health Month" to raise
5 awareness about the importance of children's oral and dental
6 health; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention (CDC), tooth decay, although preventable, is one of
9 the most chronic diseases among children; and

10 WHEREAS, Data from the CDC's 2009-2010 National Health and
11 Nutrition Examination Survey revealed that 14% of children three
12 to five years of age had untreated dental cavities or tooth
13 decay, known as dental caries; and

14 WHEREAS, The survey also revealed that 17% of children six to
15 nine years of age had untreated dental caries and 11% of

1 adolescents 13 to 15 years of age had untreated dental caries;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The CDC further found that children three to nine
4 years of age living at or below 100% of the Federal poverty
5 level had a significantly higher incidence of untreated dental
6 caries compared to children living above the poverty level; and

7 WHEREAS, The CDC estimates that 80% of children in the United
8 States have experienced tooth decay; and

9 WHEREAS, In January, the Action for Dental Health Act of 2015
10 (H.R.539) was introduced in the United States House of
11 Representatives to authorize the CDC to award oral health grants
12 to support volunteer dental projects and collaborative
13 initiatives to, among other things, improve oral health
14 education and dental disease prevention and improve essential
15 oral health care for lower income individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, Good health, both physical and mental, is enhanced
17 through sound oral and dental health habits, which are learned
18 early and reinforced throughout life; and

19 WHEREAS, Tooth decay frequently results in pain, weight loss
20 and poor speech and appearance, all of which greatly reduces a
21 child's ability to learn and succeed academically and socially;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The continued progress and economic prosperity of
24 this Commonwealth is, in large part, dependent upon the total
25 good health of its children; and

26 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest of this Commonwealth to
27 educate, assess, promote and improve good oral and dental health
28 among all children; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
30 February 2015 as "National Children's Dental Health Month" to

1 increase public awareness of the importance of good oral and
2 dental health of all children; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives strongly support
4 the efforts of all institutions, agencies and entities, both
5 public and private, entrusted with the health of the residents
6 of this Commonwealth in observing February 2015 with appropriate
7 educational activities and programs designed to recognize
8 "National Children's Dental Health Month" and the ADA's 2015
9 theme, "Defeat Monster Mouth."