



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH
October 2015

WHEREAS, there are more than 128,000 individuals living in licensed long-term care facilities across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act established the long-term care ombudsman program in 1965 as a way to assist those living in facilities to exercise their rights; and

WHEREAS, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with self-respect and self-determination; and

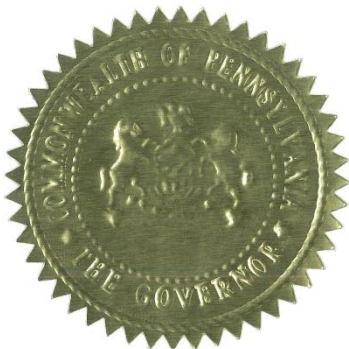
WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging's mission is to advocate for the protection of all Pennsylvanians so that they may live with dignity and respect regardless of where they reside and receive services; and

WHEREAS, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has trained more than 600 ombudsmen and volunteers to help address issues and complaints on behalf of residents and advocate for individual rights. This program has also trained over 2,200 residents as Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Residents (PEERs) to advocate for themselves and others living a long-term care facility; and

WHEREAS, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program's vision is "Advocate for those who can't, support those who can, and ensure all long-term care consumers live with dignity and respect,"; and

WHEREAS, individuals and groups across Pennsylvania celebrate Residents' Rights Month with this year's theme, "CARE Matters," to increase awareness and encourage consumers, families, advocates and providers to support the rights of individuals receiving long-term care services, thereby protecting a vulnerable population.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2015 as RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH and I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the importance of preserving the rights of all Pennsylvanians who reside in long-term care settings.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this fourth day of September in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and fortieth.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor