

WE HAVE APHASIA...

SPEAK

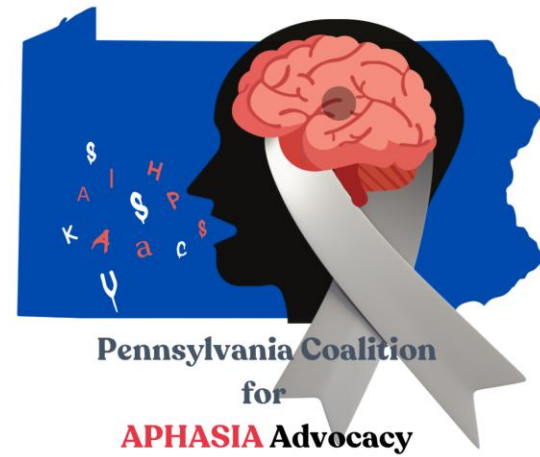
WRITE

READ

Philadelphia
Aphasia
Community at
Temple

UNDERSTAND

BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE US



Community Advocacy in Action

Gayle DeDe, PhD, CCC-SLP

National Aphasia Association Speak Out! Conference

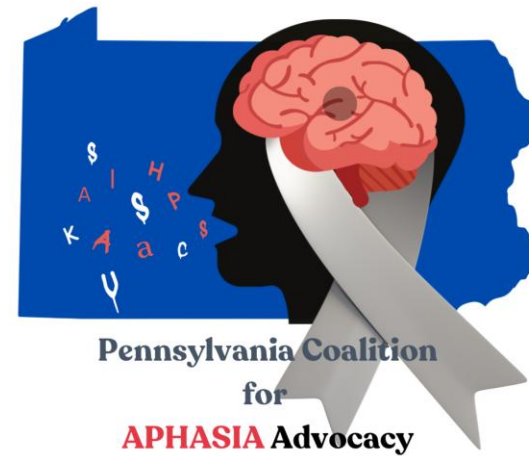
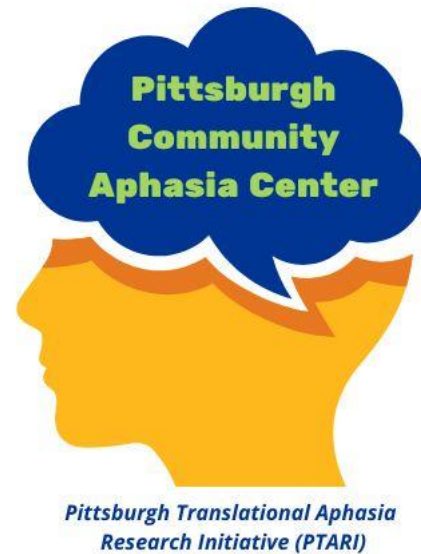
September 25, 2026



**Temple
University**
College of Public Health

Communication
Sciences and
Disorders

Acknowledgements



PCAA: Bringing the Community
Together with shared goals.

Three Simple Goals for Pennsylvania Politicians:



1. Learn about aphasia.



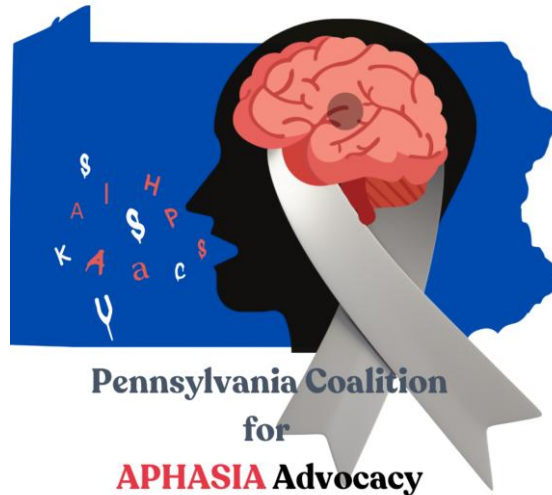
2. Sponsor a resolution to recognize June as Aphasia Awareness Month in Pennsylvania



3. Commit to share information about aphasia every June.

Districts Week for Aphasia Awareness!

May 18 – May 22, 2026



What is Districts Week?

- People with aphasia and allies (clinicians, family, friends) meet with legislators in their home districts.
- Same message.
- Same materials.
- Same week (when possible).

How did we do it?

- Documents committee created materials.
- Recruitment materials for people with aphasia and allies
- Attended local aphasia groups and stroke meetings.
- 5 training meetings scheduled.



WE WANT YOU!

**HELP RAISE
APHASIA AWARENESS!**

**SHARE YOUR VOICE WITH THE
PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR APHASIA
ADVOCACY**

WE WANT YOU TO...

Join us for Districts Week in May
2026 to raise aphasia awareness.

Participate in training meetings to
familiarize yourself with advocacy
materials.

Commit to meeting with your state
representative in May 2026.

WE WILL HELP YOU...

We will help you schedule a
meeting with your state
representatives.

We will help arrange
transportation to your meeting.

We will provide you with written
materials and talking points.

We will help familiarize you with
the materials.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
Gayle DeDe
215-204-2453
gayle.dede@temple.edu



Help with scheduling meetings

- Created a spreadsheet with all Pennsylvania senators and representatives
- Created a script for scheduling meetings
- People with relatively mild aphasia or other allies (SLPs, family members) helped with scheduling.



Created Meeting Materials Including:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Draft resolution for Aphasia Awareness Month
- Draft newsletter article about aphasia
- Brochures/Flyers about aphasia



**PHILADELPHIA APHASIA
COMMUNITY AT TEMPLE**

**Do you know
about
aphasia?**

**Do you know someone who had a
stroke or brain injury?**

- Aphasia is a language disorder that often results from a stroke or brain injury. Aphasia takes many different forms.
- More than 2 million Americans have aphasia.
- People with aphasia know what they want to say, but sometimes have trouble getting the words out.
- Aphasia does not affect intelligence.
- Patience is key when communicating with people with aphasia.
- Talk slowly and be kind.

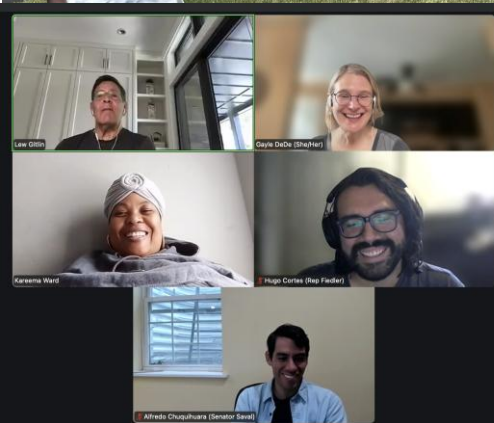
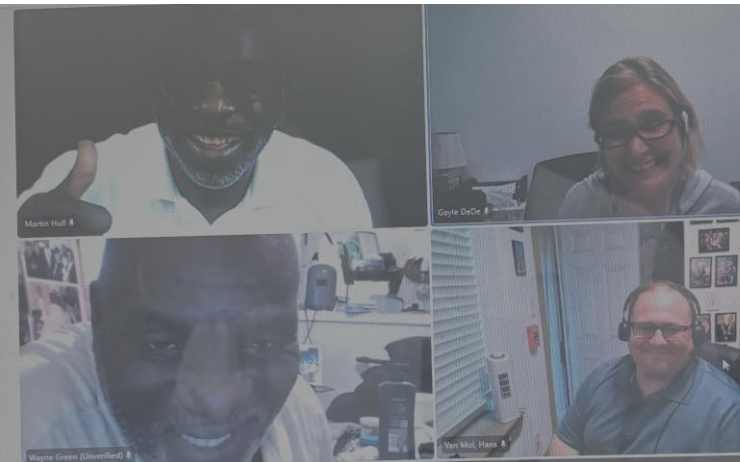
**More
Information &
Resources:**



**imPACT Advocacy Group is
available to talk to groups
about aphasia.**

✉ gayle.dede@temple.edu
☎ 215-204-2453

Were we successful?



House & Senate Resolutions Introduced

House Resolution 541

2025-2026 REGULAR SESSION

A Resolution recognizing the month of June 2026 as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase public understanding of aphasia to support improved diagnosis and treatment.

Co-Sponsorship Memo

Recognizing June 2026 as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania

Prime Sponsor



Representative Marla Brown

 House District 9

14 Co-Sponsors

Senate Resolution 330

2025-2026 REGULAR SESSION

A Resolution recognizing the month of June 2026 as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase public understanding of aphasia to support improved diagnosis and treatment.

Co-Sponsorship Memo

Recognizing June 2026 as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania

Prime Sponsor



Senator Sharif Street

 Senate District 3

16 Co-Sponsors

House Resolution Passed!



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

In the House, June 16, 2026

Whereas, Aphasia is a language disorder caused by stroke, brain injury or neurological disease; and

Whereas, Aphasia can affect an individual's ability to speak, understand language, read or write; and

Whereas, In the United States, there are an estimated 2 million to 4 million people who are living with aphasia, which affects not only those individuals, but also the individual's spouse, family members, friends and community; and

Whereas, According to the National Aphasia Association, an estimated 800,000 Americans are diagnosed with aphasia every year; and

Whereas, Approximately 85% of aphasia is caused due to strokes and other causes, which include traumatic brain injuries, brain tumors, degenerative disease and metabolic changes; and

Whereas, After over a century of studying aphasia, it has become evident that specific components of language may be more dramatically damaged in some individuals; and

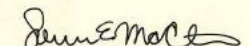
Whereas, Different types or patterns of aphasia correspond to the location of the brain injury in individual cases; and

Whereas, Individuals with aphasia often go unrecognized, and it is vital to support these individuals, their families and professionals who help them; and

Whereas, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the Federal, State and local levels; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognize the month of June 2026 as "Aphasia Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of aphasia to support improved diagnosis and treatment.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 541, introduced by Marla Brown, Emily Kinkead, Arvind Venkat, Catherine I Wallen, Rick Krajewski, Gina H. Curry, Pat Gallagher, David H. Rowe, Paul Takac, Jennifer O'Mara, Perry S. Warren, Jeremy Shaffer, Tina M. Davis and Tarik Khan.

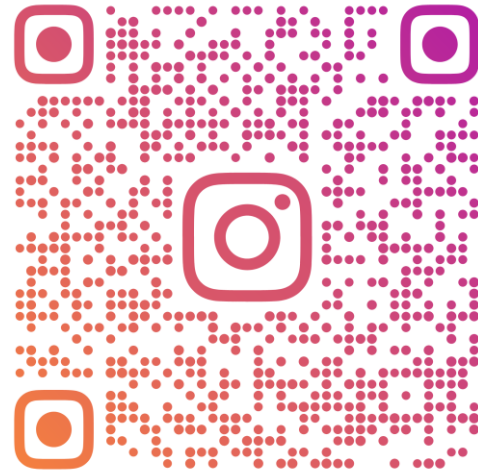

Joanna E. McClinton, Speaker

Video of House Resolution

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZs6o-nNdxk/>

Any questions?

gayle.dede@temple.edu



PA_APHASIA_ADVOCACY