

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 483 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, FERLO, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,  
ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, SCHWANK, HUGHES, SMITH,  
FONTANA, SOLOBAY, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, FARNESE AND  
PILEGGI, OCTOBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 19 through 25, 2014, as  
2 "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries affect the network of  
4 nerves that control the muscles of the shoulder, arm, elbow,  
5 wrist, hand and finger and can result in full to partial  
6 paralysis of one or both arms; and

7 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries occur often during the  
8 birthing process; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 2 to 5 per 1,000 newborns are affected  
10 by brachial plexus injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, Careful monitoring of pregnant women exhibiting any  
12 or all of the documented risk factors associated with shoulder  
13 dystocia and brachial plexus birth injuries and the proper use  
14 of recommended maneuvers during delivery of a shoulder dystocia  
15 baby can help prevent the occurrence of these injuries; and

16 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries can occur as a result of  
17 trauma such as automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents,

1 sports injuries ("burners" or "stingers"), animal bites, gunshot  
2 or puncture wounds, specific medical treatments, procedures and  
3 surgeries or due to viral diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, Persons affected by brachial plexus injuries  
5 experience pain in muscles, joints and ligaments, weakness,  
6 atrophy and numbness of the affected limb and sometimes  
7 respiratory difficulties; and

8 WHEREAS, Persons affected by brachial plexus injuries can  
9 experience secondary issues, which include low tone (hypotonia),  
10 developmental delays, speech dysfunction, chronic ear infections  
11 on the affected side, possible hearing loss, nail bed  
12 dysfunction, weakness of the foot on the affected side, postural  
13 issues that could lead to scoliosis and other secondary health  
14 issues; and

15 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries present unique challenges  
16 for all those affected, including challenges related to having  
17 the full use of only one arm, as well as the challenges  
18 associated with having a disability of any kind in our  
19 contemporary society; and

20 WHEREAS, Those affected by brachial plexus injuries often  
21 experience delayed diagnosis and lack of access to information  
22 related to current and ground-breaking treatment options,  
23 including surgical procedures available that could enhance  
24 function of the affected limb; and

25 WHEREAS, Early intervention by specialized physicians and  
26 experienced occupational and physical therapists is essential  
27 for optimum functional improvement related to a brachial plexus  
28 injury; and

29 WHEREAS, The brachial plexus injury community and the United  
30 Brachial Plexus Network (UBPN) Awareness Committee are promoting

1 Brachial Plexus Awareness Week to inform and educate the general  
2 public, the medical community, individuals with brachial plexus  
3 injuries and their families; and

4 WHEREAS, Increased understanding and awareness of brachial  
5 plexus injuries will ensure hope of a better future for people  
6 affected, as well as possibly preventing injury from occurring;  
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 19 through 25,  
9 2014, as "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" in  
10 Pennsylvania.