
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 434 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HELM, MAHER, MAHONEY, COHEN, DONATUCCI, BISHOP,
BAKER, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, KOTIK, MURT, ROZZI, BOBACK,
THOMAS, DUSH, SONNEY, TOOHIL, BENNINGHOFF, KIRKLAND,
HENNESSEY, DiGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, READSHAW, KIM, FARINA,
KINSEY, VEREB, HARHAI, D. COSTA, CALTAGIRONE, SCHWEYER,
O'NEILL, ROSS, MAJOR, WARD, MARSICO, MILNE, PETRI, WATSON,
GILLEN, GINGRICH AND DeLUCA, AUGUST 10, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 10, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 25, 2015, as "International Ataxia
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 150,000 individuals are affected by
4 hereditary and sporadic ataxia in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Ataxia is an often fatal degenerative neurological
6 disorder that causes slow, progressive deterioration of nerve
7 cells in the spinal cord and cerebellum, affecting balance,
8 coordination and speech; and

9 WHEREAS, The initial symptoms of ataxia include clumsiness
10 and loss of coordination, but as the condition progresses,
11 ataxia may affect mobility and the ability to communicate and
12 lead to total physical dependency; and

13 WHEREAS, Ataxia can strike anyone at any time, without regard
14 to age, gender or race; and

15 WHEREAS, Although ataxia is uncommon, recent scientific

1 research suggests it is more prevalent than previously thought,
2 and it may often be misdiagnosed or unrecognized; and

3 WHEREAS, There is no known treatment or cure for ataxia,
4 leaving the only defense to be research and prevention through
5 education; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Ataxia Foundation is dedicated to
7 improving the lives of persons affected by ataxia through
8 support, education and research; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Ataxia Foundation encourages increased
10 awareness about ataxia and genetic counseling to help affected
11 individuals and families make informed decisions about family
12 planning; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Ataxia Foundation supports research
14 projects that are designed to better understand the pathology
15 and cause of ataxia and helps coordinate research efforts into
16 the causes and early detection of the disorder; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
18 September 25, 2015, as "International Ataxia Awareness Day" in
19 Pennsylvania and urge all citizens to honor and support those
20 individuals with ataxia and their caregivers, in the hope that a
21 cure will soon be found.