

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 459 Session of  
2000

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, DeWEESE, VEON, COY, ORIE, McCALL, TIGUE, MYERS, BELFANTI, DAILEY, LEDERER, PETRONE, STEVENSON, STURLA, TRAVAGLIO, SOLOBAY, WOJNAROSKI, BELARDI, STABACK, VAN HORNE, HENNESSEY, PRESTON, GRUCELA, CORRIGAN, SAYLOR, ARGALL, BATTISTO, LEVDANSKY, HERSHEY, TRELLO, TANGRETTI, YUDICHAK, WALKO, PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, E. Z. TAYLOR, CAPPABIANCA, FRANKEL, M. COHEN, MANDERINO, WILLIAMS, DERMODY, LYNCH, PETRARCA, COSTA, SHANER, SURRA, LAUGHLIN, ROBINSON, HARHAI, ROBERTS, YOUNGBLOOD AND ROONEY, APRIL 17, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
APRIL 17, 2000

## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to increase  
2 funding for research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

3 WHEREAS, There are more than 16 million Americans affected by  
4 diabetes and the World Health Organization estimates that number  
5 will nearly double to 30 million by 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
7 refers to diabetes as the "epidemic of our time"; and

8 WHEREAS, Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death,  
9 killing more than 162,000 people each year; and

10 WHEREAS, There are 800,000 new cases of insulin-dependent  
11 diabetes diagnosed in the United States each year, and of those  
12 cases, approximately 10% are children 18 years of age and  
13 younger who are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; and

14 WHEREAS, The incidence of type 1 diabetes is increasing most

1 rapidly in children younger than six years of age; and

2 WHEREAS, Diabetes is the leading cause of disability and  
3 reduces life expectancy by 30% while life expectancy has  
4 increased for other diseases such as cardiovascular disease and  
5 stroke; and

6 WHEREAS, Children and young adults with type 1 diabetes face  
7 a lifetime of daily insulin injections and the possibility of  
8 early complications whose severity will likely increase with  
9 duration; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States alone diabetes costs \$138  
11 billion annually, which represents one out of every \$7 spent on  
12 health care; and

13 WHEREAS, The current Federal budget for diabetes research  
14 represents less than one-half of 1% of the annual cost of  
15 diabetes to the United States economy; and

16 WHEREAS, If 1¢ of every dollar spent per year on diabetes  
17 were donated to the effort to fund a cure, the diabetes research  
18 budget would grow by \$1.5 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States created the  
20 Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG), which is the first  
21 congressional research group to focus on a specific disease and  
22 to be charged with developing a plan to identify the research  
23 needed to prevent and cure diabetes; and

24 WHEREAS, DRWG has developed a comprehensive and important  
25 plan that identifies unmet research opportunities and has  
26 unanimously concluded that the current funding level is far  
27 short of what is required to make progress on this complex and  
28 difficult problem; and

29 WHEREAS, Improvements in technology and the general growth in  
30 scientific knowledge offer unprecedented opportunities for

1 advances that might lead to better treatments, prevention and  
2 possibly a cure; and

3 WHEREAS, Many scientific opportunities are not being pursued  
4 due to insufficient funding, lack of appropriate mechanisms and  
5 a shortage of trained researchers; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to increase  
8 funding for research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes, which  
9 affects 2 million children in the United States; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
12 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
13 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.