

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 413 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, JUNE 23, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 23, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 25, 2014, as "International Ataxia  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The National Ataxia Foundation strives to meet the  
4 goals of:

5 (1) Location of patients and persons at risk. The  
6 National Ataxia Foundation encourages a complete neurological  
7 examination to make early and correct diagnosis.

8 (2) Increased awareness about ataxia. The National  
9 Ataxia Foundation assures that accurate information about  
10 ataxia will be available through a variety of educational  
11 programs for physicians, allied health professionals and the  
12 public.

13 (3) Prevention of the spread of these disorders. The  
14 National Ataxia Foundation encourages genetic counseling to  
15 help affected individuals and families understand the  
16 hereditary nature of the illness.

17 (4) Research. In addition to its own research efforts,  
18 the National Ataxia Foundation supports those research

1 projects that are designed to better understand the pathology  
2 and causes of the ataxias, or to institute new treatments  
3 based upon scientific data. The National Ataxia Foundation  
4 helps to coordinate research efforts into the causes and  
5 early detection of ataxia through existing centers throughout  
6 the world;

7 and

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

10 WHEREAS, Ataxia is a group of progressive neurological  
11 diseases that affect balance, coordination and speech and is  
12 often fatal; and

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

15 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for ataxia; the only defense  
16 is research and prevention through education; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate September 25, 2014, as  
18 "International Ataxia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and urge  
19 all citizens to honor and support those individuals with ataxia  
20 and their caregivers, in the hope that a cure will soon be  
21 found.