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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 456 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY BRUBAKER, WOZNIAK, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, SCARNATI,  
DINNIMAN, KITCHEN, FONTANA, STACK, FERLO, SOLOBAY, RAFFERTY,  
ALLOWAY, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, HUGHES AND SMITH,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2014 as "Chiari Malformations  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chiari malformations (CMs) are structural defects in  
4 the cerebellum which affect nearly 500,000 Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, CMs cause the cerebellum to descend out of the skull  
6 and herniate into the spinal column, putting pressure on both  
7 the brain and spine and blocking the flow of cerebrospinal  
8 fluid; and

9 WHEREAS, CMs can cause a wide range of symptoms, including  
10 severe and persistent headaches, loss of motor functions,  
11 extreme pain in the neck and shoulders, nerve damage, balance  
12 problems, weakness and numbness in the hands and feet, sleep  
13 apnea, trouble swallowing and other serious health problems; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for CMs, and many patients  
15 must undergo extensive surgical procedures to ease the pressure  
16 and slow the progression of symptoms; and

17 WHEREAS, The severity of symptoms can vary dramatically from

1 person to person, regardless of the amount of descent or  
2 herniation of the cerebellum; and

3 WHEREAS, The disease is frequently misdiagnosed and  
4 misunderstood and the cause and risk factors of the condition  
5 are not fully understood; and

6 WHEREAS, Additional research, awareness and understanding of  
7 this condition are vital to ensure the best possible outcome for  
8 patients; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September  
10 2014 as "Chiari Malformations Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania  
11 and recognize the importance of understanding the impact of this  
12 disease.