
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 275 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, TOOHIL, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, SAINATO,
FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, MURT, HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO,
WATSON, MILLARD, NEILSON, KINSEY AND DeLUCA, APRIL 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 8, 2017, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" is organized
4 by Boston Scientific in collaboration with Allergy & Asthma
5 Network to raise awareness about severe asthma and improve
6 asthma care throughout the world; and

7 WHEREAS, This year is the second year that Boston Scientific
8 organized events and prepared and distributed materials and
9 resources about bronchial thermoplasty throughout the Capitol;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Asthma is a common chronic disorder of the airways
12 that is complex and characterized by variable and recurring
13 symptoms, airflow obstruction, bronchial hyper-responsiveness
14 and an underlying inflammation; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 24 million Americans suffer from
16 asthma; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 3,400 people die from asthma every year; and

1 WHEREAS, Bronchial thermoplasty is delivered by the Alair
2 System, the first therapeutic device approved by the Food and
3 Drug Administration in 2010 for adult patients with severe
4 uncontrolled asthma; and

5 WHEREAS, Bronchial thermoplasty targets smooth muscles in the
6 airway by delivering a controlled specific amount of thermal
7 energy to the airway wall through a dedicated catheter; and

8 WHEREAS, Candidates for bronchial thermoplasty include adults
9 with severe persistent asthma whose asthma is uncontrolled
10 despite adherence to regular maintenance medications; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 79% of patients who were treated with
12 bronchial thermoplasty reported a significant improvement in
13 their asthma-related quality of life; and

14 WHEREAS, Patients with severe asthma who were treated with
15 bronchial thermoplasty experienced a 32% decrease in severe
16 asthma attacks, an 84% reduction in asthma-related emergency
17 room visits and 66% fewer days lost from work, school and daily
18 activities due to asthma; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of
20 America, 5 of the top 50 most challenging places to live with
21 asthma are located in Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia,
22 Allentown, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Harrisburg; and

23 WHEREAS, Independence Blue Cross is the first insurance
24 provider in Pennsylvania to cover bronchial thermoplasty as
25 medically necessary for its severe asthmatic members and 1 of 18
26 insurance providers across the country; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 8,
28 2017, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania;
29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all

1 Pennsylvania licensed insurance companies to cover the procedure
2 of bronchial thermoplasty.