
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 858 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, RYAN, BERNSTINE, MURT, READSHAW, MILLARD,
LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD, NEILSON, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO,
CALTAGIRONE, WARREN, D. COSTA, McCLINTON, BIZZARRO AND
MARSICO, APRIL 23, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 23, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 1, 2018, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" is taking
4 place on May 1, 2018; and

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

9 WHEREAS, This year is the third year that Boston Scientific
10 is organizing events and preparing and distributing materials
11 and resources about bronchial thermoplasty throughout the
12 Capitol; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 24 million Americans suffer from
2 asthma; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 980,000 Pennsylvanians live with
6 asthma; and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 155 Pennsylvanians die from asthma every
8 year; and

9 WHEREAS, Bronchial thermoplasty is delivered by the Alair
10 System, the first therapeutic device-based procedure approved by
11 the Food and Drug Administration, in 2010, for adult patients
12 with severe uncontrolled asthma; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Candidates for bronchial thermoplasty include adults
17 with severe persistent asthma whose asthma is uncontrolled
18 despite adherence to regular maintenance medications; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Patients with severe asthma who were treated with
23 bronchial thermoplasty experienced a 32% decrease in severe
24 asthma attacks, an 84% reduction in asthma-related emergency
25 room visits and 66% fewer days lost from work, school and daily
26 activities due to asthma; and

27 WHEREAS, According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of
28 America, five of the top 50 most challenging places to live with
29 asthma are located in Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia,
30 Allentown, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Harrisburg; and

1 WHEREAS, Independence Blue Cross, Geisinger Health Plan and
2 Gateway Health Plan are the first insurance providers in
3 Pennsylvania to cover bronchial thermoplasty as medically
4 necessary for its severe asthmatic members and medical
5 assistance recipients; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 1,
7 2018, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all
10 Pennsylvania licensed insurance companies to cover the procedure
11 of bronchial thermoplasty.