
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 875 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY J. McNEILL, KIRKLAND, MURT, KINSEY, HARKINS, HILL-
EVANS, BIZZARRO, RYAN, CORR, HENNESSEY, TOOHL, SCHLOSSBERG,
DAVIS, READSHAW, DUSH, SONNEY, McCARTER, MILLARD, BARBIN,
YOUNGBLOOD, WARD, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, SOLOMON, BURNS,
D. COSTA, McCLINTON, MARSICO, NEILSON, DRISCOLL AND DALEY,
APRIL 26, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 26, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2018 as "Huntington's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder
4 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the
5 brain, leading to the deterioration of an individual's physical
6 and mental abilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired
9 judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech,
10 difficulty in swallowing and significant weight loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually first appear in individuals between
12 30 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year
13 period; and

14 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America
15 estimates that there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic

1 Americans and more than 200,000 are at risk of inheriting the
2 faulty gene that causes the disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential
4 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's
5 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene and
6 developing the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected
8 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually
9 rendering the individual totally dependent upon others for his
10 or her care; and

11 WHEREAS, While medications can alleviate some of the
12 symptoms, no treatment is available to alter the course of
13 Huntington's disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of
15 entire families emotionally, socially and economically; and

16 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may
17 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional
18 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

19 WHEREAS, Researchers identified the gene that causes
20 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have continued to develop
21 treatments in the hope of ultimately finding a cure; and

22 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America is
23 dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals affected by
24 Huntington's disease and has created a network of support
25 through education, advocacy and outreach; and

26 WHEREAS, There is still a need for greater public awareness
27 of Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, State
28 and local levels to support affected individuals as well as
29 their families and caregivers; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the

1 month of May 2018 as "Huntington's Disease Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.