

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 958 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BIZZARRO, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL,  
DUSH, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MILLARD,  
NEILSON, M. QUINN, RYAN, SONNEY, THOMAS, TOOHL AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 6, 2018

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 6, 2018

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of August 2018 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetically  
4 inherited disease affecting the part of the nervous system that  
5 controls voluntary muscle movement; and

6 WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death of infants  
7 and toddlers, affecting one in every 6,000 to 10,000 people in  
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier of  
10 the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Among autosomal recessive disorders, SMA is the most  
12 common fatal disease and is second in birth prevalence only to  
13 cystic fibrosis; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms in the mildest cases of SMA include muscle  
15 weakness, muscle twitching and lack of muscle tone; and

16 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder

1 interferes with one's ability to sit unsupported and causes  
2 breathing and swallowing difficulties; and

3 WHEREAS, Early detection is vital to managing symptoms and  
4 preventing SMA from progressing and interfering with one's basic  
5 life functions; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration  
7 recently approved the first treatment for children and adults  
8 with SMA; and

9 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for  
10 individuals with SMA starts with awareness; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
12 month of August 2018 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness  
13 Month" in Pennsylvania.