
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 180 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY McGARRIGLE, FONTANA, EICHELBERGER, BROWNE,
GREENLEAF, LANGERHOLC, BAKER, MARTIN, STREET, YAW, REGAN,
RAFFERTY, KILLION, DINNIMAN, BOSCOLA, COSTA, BREWSTER,
AUMENT, SCHWANK, WAGNER, FOLMER, VULAKOVICH, SABATINA,
MENSCH, VOGEL, BLAKE, FARNESE, SCARNATI, HAYWOOD, HUGHES,
SCAVELLO, BROOKS, ALLOWAY, RESCHENTHALER, BARTOLOTTA,
HUTCHINSON, CORMAN, GORDNER, STEFANO, TOMLINSON, McILHINNEY,
LAUGHLIN AND WHITE, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2017 as "Hydrocephalus
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hydrocephalus is a condition in which an abnormal
4 accumulation of fluid in the cerebral ventricles causes
5 enlargement of the skull and compression of the brain,
6 destroying much of the neural tissue; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no medical therapy to treat hydrocephalus,
8 and the only effective treatments are surgical; and

9 WHEREAS, While many people are helped by surgery, many more
10 need further operations to stay well; and

11 WHEREAS, Out of more than 40,000 hydrocephalus operations
12 performed annually, only 30% are a patient's first surgery to
13 treat hydrocephalus; and

14 WHEREAS, The medical costs for treating hydrocephalus are
15 more than \$1 billion per year, yet the National Institutes of

Health invests less than \$1 million per year in hydrocephalus treatment; and

WHEREAS, More than 1 million Americans are affected by hydrocephalus from infancy to adulthood; and

WHEREAS, On average, 6,000 babies are born with hydrocephalus every year, making it as common as Down syndrome and more common than spina bifida or brain tumors; and

WHEREAS, Hydrocephalus is the most common reason for brain surgery in children; and

WHEREAS, There are fewer than 10 treatment centers in the United States that specialize in treating hydrocephalus in adults; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 375,000 adults over 60 years of age have Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, a disorder which often goes undiagnosed and untreated; and

WHEREAS, Research suggests that treating hydrocephalus in the elderly population would reduce United States health care expenditures by \$25,000 per patient, or \$184 million, over a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, Hydrocephalus also goes undiagnosed and untreated in younger adults, leading to substantial work force loss and health care costs; and

WHEREAS, At times, doctors are understandably reluctant to take on complicated hydrocephalus cases, particularly in adults, because little is known about the disorder; and

WHEREAS, Over the last 50 years, there has been no significant improvement in hydrocephalus prevention and treatment and no progress toward a cure; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to several renowned medical institutions and other organizations working to increase

1 public awareness and develop new treatments that will improve
2 the lives of those who are affected by this condition; therefore
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of September
5 2017 as "Hydrocephalus Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and call
6 upon all residents of this Commonwealth to observe this month by
7 participating in activities to raise awareness of hydrocephalus.