A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of February 26 through March 4, 2017, as
2 "Spinal CSF Leak Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.
3 WHEREAS, Spinal cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak, also known as
4 intracranial hypotension, is a significant, disabling and
5 underdiagnosed but treatable cause of new-onset headache; and
6 WHEREAS, CSF bathes and supports the brain and spinal cord;
7 and
8 WHEREAS, When the connective tissue known as dura that holds
9 CSF in around the spinal cord has a hole or tear, the result is
10 a loss of CSF volume; and
11 WHEREAS, The most common symptom is a disabling positional
12 headache that is worse when upright and improved when lying
13 down; and
14 WHEREAS, Spinal CSF leaks may cause a wide range of symptoms
15 and serious complications, including stroke, dementia,
Parkinsonism, coma and even death; and

WHEREAS, The causes of spinal CSF leaks include those that arise from trauma or medical procedures as well as those that occur spontaneously; and

WHEREAS, Diagnosis is often missed or delayed due to low awareness among health care providers, contributing to additional suffering; and

WHEREAS, The sensitivity of diagnostic imaging is currently inadequate to confirm a diagnosis or locate a leak in many cases, which impacts treatment options and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Current treatment options are limited to epidural patching procedures and a range of neurosurgical procedures; and

WHEREAS, The incidence and prevalence of this disorder has been challenging to study due to underdiagnosis; and

WHEREAS, Funding for research is lacking; and

WHEREAS, Greater awareness and understanding is vital to ensure the diagnosis, treatment and best possible outcomes for patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 26 through March 4, 2017, as "Spinal CSF Leak Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania and recognize the importance of understanding the impact of this disorder.