
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 78

Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, BAKER, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI,
BISHOP, COSTA, COY, CRUZ, DALEY, DERMODY, EACHUS, HARHAI,
HENNESSEY, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LEDERER, LYNCH,
GOODMAN, McILHATTAN, MELIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PISTELLA, SHANER,
SOLOBAY, T. STEVENSON, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO,
YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 24, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
FEBRUARY 24, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to increase
2 funding for research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

3 WHEREAS, There are more than 16 million Americans affected by
4 diabetes and the World Health Organization estimates that number
5 will nearly double to 30 million by 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
7 refers to diabetes as the "epidemic of our time"; and

8 WHEREAS, Diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death,
9 killing more than 162,000 people each year; and

10 WHEREAS, There are 800,000 new cases of insulin-dependent
11 diabetes diagnosed in the United States each year, and of those
12 cases, approximately 10% are children 18 years of age and
13 younger who are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; and

14 WHEREAS, The incidence of type 1 diabetes is increasing most
15 rapidly in children younger than six years of age; and

1 WHEREAS, Diabetes is the leading cause of disability and
2 reduces life expectancy by 30% while life expectancy has
3 increased for other diseases such as cardiovascular disease and
4 stroke; and

5 WHEREAS, Children and young adults with type 1 diabetes face
6 a lifetime of daily insulin injections and the possibility of
7 early complications whose severity will likely increase with
8 duration; and

9 WHEREAS, In the United States alone diabetes costs \$138
10 billion annually, which represents one out of every \$7 spent on
11 health care; and

12 WHEREAS, The current Federal budget for diabetes research
13 represents less than one-half of 1% of the annual cost of
14 diabetes to the United States economy; and

15 WHEREAS, If 1¢ of every dollar spent per year on diabetes
16 were donated to the effort to fund a cure, the diabetes research
17 budget would grow by \$1.5 billion; and

18 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States created the
19 Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG), which is the first
20 congressional research group to focus on a specific disease and
21 to be charged with developing a plan to identify the research
22 needed to prevent and cure diabetes; and

23 WHEREAS, DRWG has developed a comprehensive and important
24 plan that identifies unmet research opportunities and has
25 unanimously concluded that the current funding level is far
26 short of what is required to make progress on this complex and
27 difficult problem; and

28 WHEREAS, Improvements in technology and the general growth in
29 scientific knowledge offer unprecedented opportunities for
30 advances that might lead to better treatments, prevention and

1 possibly a cure; and

2 WHEREAS, Many scientific opportunities are not being pursued
3 due to insufficient funding, lack of appropriate mechanisms and
4 a shortage of trained researchers; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize Congress to increase
7 funding for research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes, which
8 affects 2 million children in the United States; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
11 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
12 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.