
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 847 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY LEWIS, ALLEN, ARGALL, BALDWIN, BEBKO-JONES,
BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, COLEMAN,
CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO,
DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FLEAGLE, FORCIER,
GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOOD, GRUCELA,
HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HICKERNELL, HORSEY,
JAMES, KELLER, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LEH, LESCOVITZ,
MAJOR, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MCGILL, S. MILLER, MUSTIO, PALLONE,
PAYNE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO,
SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY,
E. Z. TAYLOR, TRUE, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, DeLUCA, FICHTER,
KILLION, PICKETT AND TURZAI, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2004 as "Polio Survivor Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 1.6 million polio survivors
4 in the United States today, of whom at least half may be
5 experiencing new medical problems; and

6 WHEREAS, At least 70% of paralytic and 40% of nonparalytic
7 polio survivors are developing post-polio sequelae (PPS),
8 unexpected and often disabling symptoms, including overwhelming
9 fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep
10 disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold and pain
11 and difficulty swallowing and breathing, that occur decades
12 after the poliovirus attack; and

1 WHEREAS, PPS can be treated if polio survivors are taught to
2 conserve energy, to stop abusing poliovirus-damaged neurons,
3 muscles and joints and to use assistive devices; and

4 WHEREAS, Through a letter and public awareness campaign, the
5 International Post-Polio Task Force plans to encourage citizens
6 to lobby Congress, state legislatures and health care regulatory
7 agencies to initiate the following benefits for PPS sufferers:

8 (1) Adjustable-height, wheeled, ambulance-type
9 stretchers that allow for transfers from wheelchairs to
10 examining tables in doctors' offices, hospitals and
11 diagnostic centers.

12 (2) Medicare-funded power wheelchairs for ambulatory PPS
13 sufferers who will become progressively weaker in upper body
14 muscles by pushing manual wheelchairs;

15 and

16 WHEREAS, The year 2004 is the 52nd anniversary of the most
17 devastating polio epidemic in the United States, which affected
18 nearly 60,000 people; and

19 WHEREAS, The task force endeavors to provide accurate
20 information about PPS and promote research into its cause and
21 cure; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of October 2004 as "Polio Survivor Month" in Pennsylvania.