

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 966 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY M. SMITH, BAKER, BISHOP, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, DEASY, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, MCILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MURT, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYTON, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, BEYER, TALLMAN AND PHILLIPS, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 1, 2010, as "Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
2 (DPN) Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes the importance of
4 diagnosing and treating diabetes and promoting awareness and
5 education about diabetes; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes diabetic peripheral
7 neuropathy (DPN) as a serious condition that results from damage
8 to nerves due to prolonged exposure to high amounts of glucose
9 in the bloodstream as a result of diabetes; and

10 WHEREAS, In the United States 17.9 million cases of diabetes
11 are diagnosed, which means that 8% of the general population has
12 diabetes; and

13 WHEREAS, More than half of all diabetics suffer from DPN,
14 which manifests itself in intense pain often described as

1 aching, tingling, burning and numbness, which often results in
2 serious foot problems due to nerve damage; and

3 WHEREAS, Although it can hurt, diabetic nerve damage can also
4 lessen the ability to feel pain, heat and cold, which means that
5 diabetic patients may not feel foot injuries or even stones in
6 their shoes or nails in their feet; and

7 WHEREAS, The rate of amputations in people with diabetes is
8 ten times higher than for people without diabetes, and studies
9 show that more than 60% of nontraumatic lower extremity
10 amputations are due to DPN; and

11 WHEREAS, DPN can occur whether a person has Type I diabetes,
12 also known as juvenile diabetes, or Type II diabetes, which is
13 typically adult-onset diabetes; and

14 WHEREAS, DPN accounts for more diabetes-related
15 hospitalizations than any other complication; and

16 WHEREAS, DPN is preventable only to the extent that the
17 underlying cause is preventable, requiring the individual
18 patient's alert awareness of bodily deficiency, illness,
19 infection or injury that can cause peripheral neuropathy and the
20 individual's willingness to seek early diagnosis and treatment;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, It is important that Pennsylvanians with diabetes be
23 aware of the dangers and warning signs of DPN and make healthy
24 lifestyle choices to prevent the onset of this life-changing
25 condition; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
27 November 1, 2010, as "Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (DPN) Day"
28 in Pennsylvania to highlight the value of education in providing
29 DPN treatment, which is cost effective and improves the quality
30 of life for people with diabetes; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That people with diabetes, their families and
2 friends along with health care professionals in this
3 Commonwealth be urged to increase awareness and understanding of
4 DPN so that in the future people with diabetes will be better
5 able to care for their own needs and others will be better
6 prepared to serve the needs of people with diabetes.