

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 717 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY HARHAI, BAKER, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,
D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GOODMAN,
KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MATZIE,
MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, M. O'BRIEN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS,
SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, YOUNGBLOOD, GEIST AND
DONATUCCI, MAY 7, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 7,
2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 21, 2012, as "Arteriovenous
2 Malformation Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a rare,
4 nonhereditary congenital defect characterized by tangled
5 arteries and veins that are not connected by capillaries; and

6 WHEREAS, Blood circulating through the abnormal vessels flows
7 rapidly under high pressure, preventing nutrient-rich arterial
8 blood from reaching tissue; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Neurological
10 Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), which is part of the National
11 Institutes of Health (NIH), approximately 300,000 Americans have
12 AVMs; and

13 WHEREAS, NINDS reports that each year about 1% of persons
14 with AVMs will die as a result of the AVMs; and

15 WHEREAS, While occurring in fairly equal rates in men and

1 women of all racial or ethnic backgrounds, AVMs are still more
2 common among males; and

3 WHEREAS, Because most people with AVMs do not know that they
4 have them, it is imperative that the public become better
5 educated; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the International RadioSurgery
7 Association, AVMs are the leading cause of stroke in young
8 people between 10 and 30 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, According to NINDS, most people with AVMs experience
10 few, if any, significant symptoms, and malformations tend to be
11 discovered only incidentally, usually during autopsy or
12 treatment for an unrelated disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, Twelve percent of the affected population, or 36,000
14 of the estimated 300,000 Americans with AVMs, experience
15 symptoms that vary greatly in severity, with a small fraction of
16 this group having debilitating or even life-threatening
17 symptoms; and

18 WHEREAS, AVMs can cause a wide array of neurological symptoms
19 such as muscle weakness, partial paralysis, loss of
20 coordination, difficulties performing tasks which require
21 planning, dizziness, visual disturbances, inability to control
22 eye movement and optic disk swelling; and

23 WHEREAS, AVMs can cause problems in using and understanding
24 language, abnormal sensations such as numbness, tingling or
25 spontaneous pain, memory loss, mental confusion, hallucinations
26 or dementia; and

27 WHEREAS, Treatment depends on the type and location of the
28 AVM and the condition of the patient; and

29 WHEREAS, Although AVM symptoms are often alleviated with
30 medication, the most effective treatments include surgery,

1 radiation therapy and embolization; and

2 WHEREAS, Researchers have difficulty classifying the
3 different kinds of AVMs and developing new treatments; and

4 WHEREAS, NINDS, which is recognized as a leading sponsor of
5 AVM research, conducts research studies in partnership with
6 medical institutions such as Columbia University Medical Center;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The NINDS-Columbia partnership created the
9 Arteriovenous Study Group, which has been conducting long-term
10 research on the natural course of AVMs in patients and
11 improvements in AVM surgeries; and

12 WHEREAS, As research efforts progress, the public is
13 encouraged to learn all they can about AVM, share it with their
14 families and friends and provide aid and comfort for traumatized
15 loved ones who have been touched by this disorder; therefore be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
18 week of May 21, 2012, as "Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness
19 Week" in Pennsylvania.