
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 290 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, ERICKSON, FERLO, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,
GREENLEAF, STACK, KITCHEN, YAW, KASUNIC, ARGALL, SMITH,
HUGHES, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, BAKER, FARNESE, ALLOWAY AND
PILEGGI, JANUARY 28, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 7 through 14, 2014, as "Congenital Heart
2 Defect Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Designating February 7 through 14, 2014, as
4 Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in Pennsylvania promotes
5 greater public awareness about congenital heart defects; and

6 WHEREAS, Congenital heart defects are the most common type of
7 birth defects in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year approximately 40,000 babies in the United
9 States are born with congenital heart defects; and

10 WHEREAS, Pulse oximetry newborn screenings can identify some
11 infants with congenital heart defects before they show signs of
12 the condition; and

13 WHEREAS, A pulse oximetry newborn screening is a noninvasive
14 test to identify the levels of hemoglobin in the blood; and

15 WHEREAS, Once congenital heart defects are identified, babies
16 can receive treatment that can prevent death or disability; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 50% of all children born with congenital

1 heart defects will require at least one invasive surgery in
2 their lifetime; and

3 WHEREAS, Almost half of all children and adults with complex
4 congenital heart defects have neurological and developmental
5 disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, For every dollar the Commonwealth spends on medical
7 funding, only a fraction of a penny is directed toward
8 congenital heart defect research; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the last decade, death rates for congenital
10 heart defects have declined by almost 30% due to advances made
11 through congenital heart defect research; and

12 WHEREAS, There are approximately two million congenital heart
13 defect survivors in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Greater public awareness about congenital heart
15 defects and the use of pulse oximetry newborn screenings can
16 save lives; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of February 7
18 through 14, 2014, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" in
19 Pennsylvania.