

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 219 Session of  
2022

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, BROWNE, FONTANA, KANE, KEARNEY,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, COMMITTA, SCHWANK AND  
CAPPELLETTI, JANUARY 25, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 25, 2022

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 30, 2022, as "CTE Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is a  
4 degenerative brain disease that appears in individuals with a  
5 history of repetitive brain trauma sustained over a period of  
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, CTE was first described by Dr. Harrison Martland in  
8 a study entitled "Punch Drunk," which links brain injury and  
9 boxing and was published in the Journal of the American Medical  
10 Association in 1928; and

11 WHEREAS, It was not until 2002 that Dr. Bennet Omalu  
12 discovered the first evidence of CTE in a professional football  
13 player and, in collaboration with his colleagues at the  
14 University of Pittsburgh, published the details of his  
15 groundbreaking findings in a study entitled "Chronic Traumatic  
16 Encephalopathy in a National Football League Player" in 2005;  
17 and

1 WHEREAS, CTE is caused by a buildup of an abnormal protein,  
2 known as tau, in the brain leading to brain cell death; and

3 WHEREAS, The risk of developing CTE is greatest in athletes  
4 and military veterans, who frequently endure repeated  
5 subconcussive blows to the head from playing contact sports or  
6 suffer traumatic injury from military training or blasting; and

7 WHEREAS, CTE also appears in survivors of domestic abuse and  
8 individuals with epilepsy; and

9 WHEREAS, Though the symptoms associated with CTE, including  
10 memory loss, tremors, addictions, progressive dementia,  
11 depression, suicidal thoughts, impaired judgment and paranoia,  
12 often occur years after the brain trauma or hits cease, CTE  
13 symptoms have been found in patients as young as 17 years of  
14 age; and

15 WHEREAS, Currently, CTE can only be definitively diagnosed  
16 after death through postmortem neuropathological analysis; and

17 WHEREAS, Advocacy organizations, health care providers and  
18 institutional researchers are dedicated to studying the causes  
19 and symptoms of CTE for the purpose of enabling parents to make  
20 informed decisions regarding the best interests of their  
21 children in youth sports and developing an earlier diagnostic  
22 tool to identify CTE symptoms in patients as soon as possible;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Each year, "CTE Awareness Day" is recognized by the  
25 Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation and other organizations  
26 across the United States to bring awareness regarding the  
27 individuals who died from the symptoms associated with CTE, how  
28 to assist individuals suffering with CTE and, most importantly,  
29 how to prevent CTE; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize January 30, 2022, as "CTE

1 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.