

**NICK MICCARELLI, MEMBER
162ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

PO Box 202162
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2162
Phone: (717) 787-3472
FAX: (717) 787-7558



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

605 East Chester Pike
Ridley Park, PA 19078
Phone: (610) 534-1002
FAX: (610) 534-1710

NickMicc@pahousegop.com
www.RepMiccarelli.net

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Nick Miccarelli *NAM*

Subject: Proposed Resolution: Establish September 2011 as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month

Date: June 15, 2011

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution that will recognize September 2011 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness Month."

Until recently, Chiari malformation was regarded as a rare condition, but with the increased use of magnetic resonance imaging, the number of reported cases has risen from 200,000 to 2 million Americans. Women are 3 times more likely to be affected by this disease than men. Chiari Malformation is a structural defect in the cerebellum. When the indented bony space at the lower rear of the skull is smaller than normal, the cerebellum and brainstem can be pushed downward. The resulting pressure on the cerebellum can block the flow of cerebrospinal fluid (the liquid that surrounds and protects the brain and spinal cord) and can cause a range of symptoms including dizziness, muscle weakness, numbness, vision problems, headache, and problems with balance and coordination. One of the methods of treatment that has consistently proved successful is brain surgery which is very costly. Approximately 3,500 brain operations are performed each

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Deborah Garger in my Harrisburg office at 717-787-3472 or via email at dgarger@pahousegop.com.