

MEMO



NOV 10 2011

Senate of Pennsylvania

November 10, 2011

**TO:** ALL SENATORS

**FROM:** Stewart J. Greenleaf *Stewart*

**SUBJECT:** Cosponsorship – “Pallister-Killian Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania

I plan to offer a resolution recognizing December 4, 2011, as “Pallister-Killian Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania.

A family in my district recently made me aware of a rare genetic disorder their son has called Pallister-Killian Syndrome (PKS) resulting from the double duplication of the short arm of chromosome 12, causing children to suffer low muscle tone, seizures, global developmental delays, hearing and vision loss among other conditions. Pallister-Killian Syndrome happens randomly at conception and for no known reason. It is thought that there are under 300 diagnosed cases of PKS in the world, however many doctors believe that the incidence of PKS is much higher, possibly as many as 2,000 cases exist in the United States alone. Improper testing methods and lack of awareness of this condition are the main causes of these undiagnosed cases.

Increased awareness of this condition will help families and caregivers of children with PKS acquire the resources and support they need to manage this disorder. This resolution will recognize December 4, 2011, as Pallister-Killian Awareness Day and promote research, education, and raise awareness within the medical community to ensure early diagnoses of children with Pallister-Killian Syndrome.

*If you are interested in cosponsoring this resolution, please contact Eric Pauley of my office by e-mailing him at [epauley@pasen.gov](mailto:epauley@pasen.gov) by the close of business on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.*