

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ted Harhai

DATE: April 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution Designating the Week of May 21, 2012 as "Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution designating the week of May 21, 2012 as "Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a rare, nonhereditary congenital defect of the circulatory system characterized by tangled arteries and veins not connected by capillaries. AVMs affect nearly 300,000 Americans and are the leading cause of stroke in young people between 10 and 30 years of age. While most individuals with AVMs experience few, if any, significant symptoms approximately 12 percent of the impacted population suffers from neurological complications including muscle weakness, partial paralysis, loss of coordination, difficulties performing tasks which require planning, dizziness, visual disturbances, inability to control eye movement, optic disk swelling, abnormal sensations, memory loss, mental confusion, hallucinations, and dementia. AVM symptoms are often alleviated with medication; however, the most effective treatments include surgery, radiation therapy, and embolization.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick in my Harrisburg office at (717) 772-2820 or via email at jdetrick@pahouse.net.