

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 20 through 26, 2013, as  
2 "Arteriovenous Malformation Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a rare,  
4 nonhereditary congenital defect characterized by tangled  
5 arteries and veins that are not connected by capillaries; and

6 WHEREAS, Blood circulating through the abnormal vessels flows  
7 rapidly under high pressure, preventing nutrient-rich arterial  
8 blood from reaching tissue; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Neurological  
10 Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), which is part of the National  
11 Institutes of Health (NIH), approximately 300,000 Americans have  
12 AVMs; and

13 WHEREAS, NINDS reports that each year about 1% of persons  
14 with AVMs will die as a result of the AVMs; and

15 WHEREAS, While occurring in fairly equal rates in men and  
16 women of all racial or ethnic backgrounds, AVMs are still more  
17 common among males; and

1       WHEREAS, Because most people with AVMs do not know that they  
2 have them, it is imperative that the public become better  
3 educated; and

4       WHEREAS, According to the International RadioSurgery  
5 Association, AVMs are the leading cause of stroke in young  
6 people between 10 and 30 years of age; and

7       WHEREAS, According to NINDS, most people with AVMs experience  
8 few, if any, significant symptoms, and malformations tend to be  
9 discovered only incidentally, usually during autopsy or  
10 treatment for an unrelated disorder; and

11       WHEREAS, Twelve percent of the affected population, or 36,000  
12 of the estimated 300,000 Americans with AVMs, experience  
13 symptoms that vary greatly in severity, with a small fraction of  
14 this group having debilitating or even life-threatening  
15 symptoms; and

16       WHEREAS, AVMs can cause a wide array of neurological symptoms  
17 such as muscle weakness, partial paralysis, loss of  
18 coordination, difficulties performing tasks which require  

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19 planning, dizziness, visual disturbances, inability to control  
20 eye movement and optic disk swelling; and

21       WHEREAS, AVMs can cause problems in using and understanding  
22 language, abnormal sensations such as numbness, tingling or  
23 spontaneous pain, memory loss, mental confusion, hallucinations  
24 or dementia; and

25       WHEREAS, Treatment depends on the type and location of the  
26 AVM and the condition of the patient; and

27       WHEREAS, Although AVM symptoms are often alleviated with  
28 medication, the most effective treatments include surgery,  
29 radiation therapy and embolization; and

30       WHEREAS, Researchers have difficulty classifying the

1 different kinds of AVMs and developing new treatments; and

2 WHEREAS, NINDS, which is recognized as a leading sponsor of  
3 AVM research, conducts research studies in partnership with  
4 medical institutions such as Columbia University Medical Center;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The NINDS-Columbia partnership created the  
7 Arteriovenous Study Group, which has been conducting long-term  
8 research on the natural course of AVMs in patients and  
9 improvements in AVM surgeries; and

10 WHEREAS, As research efforts progress, the public is  
11 encouraged to learn all they can about AVM, share it with their  
12 families and friends and provide aid and comfort for traumatized  
13 loved ones who have been touched by this disorder; therefore be  
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
16 week of May 20 through 26, 2013, as "Arteriovenous Malformation  
17 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.