

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 25, 2014, as "Ataxia Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 150,000 individuals are affected by
4 hereditary and sporadic ataxia in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Ataxia is an often fatal degenerative neurological
6 disorder that causes slow, progressive deterioration of nerve
7 cells in the spinal cord and cerebellum, affecting balance,
8 coordination and speech; and

9 WHEREAS, The initial symptoms of ataxia include clumsiness
10 and loss of coordination, but as the condition progresses,
11 ataxia may affect mobility and the ability to communicate and
12 lead to total physical dependency; and

13 WHEREAS, Ataxia can strike anyone at any time, without regard
14 to age, gender or race; and

15 WHEREAS, Although ataxia is uncommon, recent scientific
16 research suggests it is more prevalent than previously thought,
17 and it may often be misdiagnosed or unrecognized; and

1 WHEREAS, There is no known treatment or cure for ataxia,
2 leaving the only defense to be research and prevention through
3 education; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
5 September 25, 2014, as "Ataxia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
6 and urge all citizens to honor and support those individuals
7 with ataxia and their caregivers, in the hope that a cure will
8 soon be found.