

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 18 through 24, 2015, 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 people with
14 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 are undiagnosed, it is
2 imperative that the public become better educated; and

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, AVMs can cause a wide array of neurological symptoms
16 such as muscle weakness, partial paralysis, loss of
17 coordination, difficulties performing tasks which require
18 planning, dizziness, visual disturbances, inability to control
19 eye movement and optic disk swelling; and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Researchers have difficulty classifying the
30 different kinds of AVMs and developing new treatments; and

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

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
15 week of May 18 through 24, 2015, as "Arteriovenous Malformation
16 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

