

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2016 as "Chiari Malformation
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chiari malformation, as recognized by the National
4 Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) of the
5 National Institutes of Health, includes a complex group of
6 disorders characterized by herniation of the cerebellum; and

7 WHEREAS, The herniated tissue blocks the circulation of
8 cerebrospinal fluid in the brain, which can lead to the
9 formation of a cavity within the spinal cord; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of type I Chiari malformation include
11 severe headache, dizziness, vertigo, disequilibrium, visual
12 disturbances, difficulty swallowing, heart palpitations, sleep
13 apnea, impaired fine motor skills, chronic fatigue and painful
14 tingling of the hands and feet; and

15 WHEREAS, Because of the complex symptomology, patients with
16 type I Chiari malformation are frequently misdiagnosed; and

17 WHEREAS, Type II Chiari malformation, also called Arnold-

1 Chiari malformation, is usually accompanied by a
2 myelomeningocele, a form of spina bifida that occurs when the
3 spinal canal and the backbone do not close before birth; and

4 WHEREAS, Protusion of the spinal meninges and spinal cord
5 through an opening in the back can result in partial or complete
6 paralysis below the spinal opening; and

7 WHEREAS, Type III Chiari malformation, the most serious form,
8 results in severe and often irreversible neurological defects;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, While treatment does not follow a certain and
11 definitive path, medication may ease certain symptoms such as
12 pain; and

13 WHEREAS, Surgery is often the only treatment available to
14 correct functional disturbances or halt the progression of
15 damage to the central nervous system; and

16 WHEREAS, NINDS is conducting research to find alternative
17 surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to
18 create improved treatment and prevention plans; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
20 month of September 2016 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness Month"
21 in Pennsylvania to promote awareness of and advocacy for this
22 important cause.