
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 271 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, HENNESSEY, CALTAGIRONE, DiGIROLAMO,
BAKER, O'BRIEN, READSHAW, WATSON, RYAN, MILLARD, D. COSTA,
DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, MACKENZIE, LONGIETTI, KINSEY,
V. BROWN, TOOHIL, NEILSON, FREEMAN, BIZZARRO, GOODMAN,
DeLUCA, SCHWEYER, MADDEN, DONATUCCI, WARREN, PASHINSKI,
MARSICO, CONKLIN, HILL-EVANS, RAPP AND O'NEILL,
APRIL 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Huntington's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder
4 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the
5 brain, leading to deterioration of an individual's physical and
6 mental abilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include personality
8 changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness, impaired
9 judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred speech,
10 difficulty in swallowing and significant weight loss; and

11 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually appear in individuals between 30
12 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year period;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America
15 estimates there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic Americans

1 and more than 200,000 at risk of inheriting the disease; and

2 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential
3 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's
4 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene; and

5 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected
6 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually
7 making the individual totally dependent upon others for his or
8 her care; and

9 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of
10 entire families emotionally, socially and economically; and

11 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may
12 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional
13 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

14 WHEREAS, Researchers identified the gene that causes
15 Huntington's disease in 1993 and have developed treatments in
16 hopes of ultimately finding a cure; and

17 WHEREAS, There is still a need for greater public awareness
18 of Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, State
19 and local levels to support affected individuals as well as
20 their families and caregivers; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of May 2017 as "Huntington's Disease Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania.