

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 447 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY HELM, DENLINGER, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOBACK, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DAY, DERMODY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MELIO, MILLARD, MILLER, MURT, D. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROHRER, ROSS, SIPTROTH, STEVENSON, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATERS AND YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 24, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST 24, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 25, 2009, 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

1 to age, gender or race; and

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

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

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
9 September 25, 2009, as "Ataxia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
10 and urge all citizens to honor and support those individuals
11 with ataxia and their caregivers, in the hope that a cure will
12 soon be found.