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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 370 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, BAKER, BARRAR, BRADFORD, BRENNAN,  
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO,  
DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GILLEN,  
GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HARKINS, HENNESSEY,  
HESS, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, KULA, MAJOR, MARSICO,  
MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, MUSTIO, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK,  
ROSS, SCAVELLO, SWANGER, THOMAS, VEREB AND VULAKOVICH,  
AUGUST 22, 2011

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST  
22, 2011

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 2011 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness  
2 Month."

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

7 WHEREAS, The herniated tissue blocks the circulation of  
8 cerebrospinal fluid in the brain which can lead to the formation  
9 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

1       WHEREAS, Because of the complex symptomology, patients with  
2 Type I Chiari malformation are frequently misdiagnosed; and

3       WHEREAS, Type II Chiari malformation, also called Arnold-  
4 Chiari malformation, is usually accompanied by a  
5 myelomeningocele, a form of spina bifida that occurs when the  
6 spinal canal and the backbone do not close before birth, causing  
7 the spinal cord to protrude through an opening in the back,  
8 which can result in partial or complete paralysis below the  
9 spinal opening; and

10       WHEREAS, Type III Chiari malformation, the most serious form,  
11 results in severe and often irreversible neurological defects;  
12 and

13       WHEREAS, Treatment for this disorder is not a certain and  
14 definitive path, and medication may ease certain symptoms such  
15 as pain, but often surgery is the only treatment available to  
16 correct functional disturbances or halt the progression of  
17 damage to the central nervous system; and

18       WHEREAS, Until recently, Chiari malformation was regarded as  
19 a rare condition, but with the increased use of magnetic  
20 resonance imaging, the number of reported cases has risen from  
21 200,000 to 2 million Americans; and

22       WHEREAS, New genetic studies support a hereditary tendency  
23 with a transmissibility rate of 12%; and

24       WHEREAS, The studies also found that women are three times  
25 more likely to be afflicted by the debilitating disorder than  
26 men; therefore be it

27       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
28 month of September 2011 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness Month"  
29 and help promote advocacy for this important cause.