
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 786 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, READSHAW, BAKER, BRADFORD, BRENNAN,
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DALEY, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO,
FABRIZIO, FLECK, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN,
HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, JAMES, KILLION, KULA,
LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MICOZZIE, MILLARD,
MURT, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, RAVENSTAHL, ROCK, ROSS, SABATINA,
SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHMOTZER, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, WATERS,
WILLIAMS, YOUNGBLOOD, MILNE AND GEIST, JUNE 20, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE
20, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring the week of September 16 through 22, 2012, as
2 "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mitochondria are the power plants in every cell of a
4 person's body and create more than 90% of the energy needed by
5 the body to sustain life and support growth; and

6 WHEREAS, Mitochondria may not function correctly due to
7 genetic defects, damage caused by drugs or damage caused by
8 destructive molecules called free radicals; and

9 WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, cell injury and cell death
10 follow, and if the process is repeated throughout the body,
11 whole systems begin to fail; and

12 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial diseases can cause isolated symptoms,
13 such as seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness,
14 dementia, heart failure and progressive muscle weakness, but

1 more often they cause failure of several organ systems in
2 sequence; and

3 WHEREAS, Although mitochondrial diseases can affect any
4 person at any age, it is estimated that more than 1 in 4,000
5 children born in the United States each year will develop a
6 mitochondrial disease by ten years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, Since mitochondrial disorders mimic other diseases,
8 it is believed that they are underdiagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Currently no cures or effective therapies exist, but
10 early diagnosis can help patients and their families use proper
11 medication and nutritional supplements to improve the quality of
12 life, and even prolong life; and

13 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that all citizens of this
14 Commonwealth be better informed about mitochondrial diseases and
15 their impact; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare the week
17 of September 16 through 22, 2012, as "Mitochondrial Disease
18 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the citizens of this Commonwealth be urged to
20 observe the week with appropriate activities and programs.