

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 229 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, COHEN, KOTIK, DiGIROLAMO, KORTZ,
O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, MILLARD, GRELL, ROSS, YOUNGBLOOD, P. DALEY,
KINSEY, BROWNLEE, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, MAHONEY, LONGIETTI,
C. HARRIS, EVERETT, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, KAVULICH AND GOODMAN,
APRIL 10, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 10, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 18, 2013, as "Ependymoma Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Ependymoma is a rare type of brain or spinal cord
4 tumor that begins in the central nervous system and develops
5 from cells that line the ventricles in the brain or the spinal
6 cord; and

7 WHEREAS, The cause of ependymoma is unknown, but it affects
8 children at higher rates than adults; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the National Brain Tumor Society,
10 ependymoma tumors are confined to one area of the brain, can be
11 located in the ventricles of the brain or blocking them causing
12 water on the brain and may extend to the spinal cord; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute at the National
14 Institutes of Health reports that about 1 in 11 childhood brain
15 tumors are ependymomas; and

16 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of ependymomas in children occur in

1 the brain, while more than 60% of ependymomas present in adults
2 occur in the spinal cord, with men suffering from this condition
3 at a higher rate than women; and

4 WHEREAS, Children who suffer from ependymoma experience the
5 following symptoms: frequent headaches, seizures, nausea and
6 vomiting and a loss of balance or trouble walking; and

7 WHEREAS, Adults who have ependymoma exhibit the following
8 symptoms: back pain, weakness in the arms or legs, numbness or
9 tingling in the arms or legs and problems controlling bowel or
10 bladder functions; and

11 WHEREAS, Surgery and radiation therapy are common treatments
12 for ependymoma; and

13 WHEREAS, The first "Ependymoma Awareness Day" was
14 commemorated by releasing butterflies during the Collaborative
15 Ependymoma Research Network (CERN) Foundation investor meeting
16 held on April 19, 2012, as the butterflies are symbolic of hope
17 through change; and

18 WHEREAS, CERN was established in November 2006, when Mark
19 Gilbert, M.D., Deputy Chairman of Neuro-Oncology at the
20 University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, developed the
21 idea of creating an international group to develop new
22 treatments for ependymoma; and

23 WHEREAS, The CERN Foundation focuses on five main projects,
24 including clinical trials, tumor profiling and pathology,
25 development of therapeutics, tumor stem cell and laboratory
26 models and patient outcomes; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
28 18, 2013, as "Ependymoma Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to raise
29 awareness of the disease, while urging support for patients,
30 families and medical professionals in pursuit of a cure.