
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1024 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, MURT, SONNEY, LUCAS, HENNESSEY, COHEN,
MIRABITO, CUTLER, MILLARD, KIRKLAND, BISHOP, McNEILL,
PICKETT, V. BROWN, DONATUCCI, HARHART, KINSEY, READSHAW, KIM,
KILLION, SCHLOSSBERG, BARRAR, LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD, FARINA,
McCARTER, MARSICO, BAKER, D. COSTA, ROCK, FLECK, ROSS,
THOMAS, GOODMAN, MAHONEY, MAJOR, CALTAGIRONE AND GINGRICH,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2014 as "Chiari Malformation
2 Awareness 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
9 formation 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

15 WHEREAS, Because of the complex symptomology, patients with

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 month of September 2014 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness Month"
28 and help promote advocacy for this important cause.