
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 343 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, BISHOP, MACKENZIE, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO,
KINSEY, MURT, HENNESSEY, BENNINGHOFF, BAKER, BROWNLEE,
DONATUCCI, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, DUSH, KOTIK, VEREB,
READSHAW, KAVULICH, FARINA, LONGIETTI, PASHINSKI, WHEELAND
AND GINGRICH, MAY 13, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 13, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month May 2015 as "Huntington's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder
4 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the
5 brain leading to deterioration of a person's physical and mental
6 abilities; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Huntington's disease include;
8 personality changes, mood swings, depression, forgetfulness,
9 impaired judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary movements, slurred
10 speech, difficulty in swallowing and significant weight loss;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Symptoms usually appear in individuals between 30 to
13 50 years of age and worsen over a 10 to 25 year period; and

14 WHEREAS, The Huntington's Disease Society of America
15 estimates there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic Americans
16 and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease is known as the quintessential
2 family disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's
3 disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene; and

4 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease slowly diminishes the affected
5 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually
6 making the person totally dependent upon others for his or her
7 care; and

8 WHEREAS, Huntington's disease profoundly affects the lives of
9 entire families emotionally, socially and economically; and

10 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge about Huntington's disease may
11 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional
12 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1993, researchers identified the gene that causes
14 Huntington's disease and have developed treatments in hopes of
15 ultimately finding a cure; and

16 WHEREAS, There is still a need for greater public awareness
17 of Huntington's disease and more activity at the national, State
18 and local levels to support those afflicted, as well as their
19 families and caregivers; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 month of May 2015 as "Huntington's Disease Awareness Month" in
22 Pennsylvania.