
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 839 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, ROZZI, COHEN,
CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, WATSON, SCHLOSSBERG, D. COSTA,
VEREB, READSHAW, THOMAS, TOOHIL, BAKER, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI,
MURT, WHEELAND, ROSS, KINSEY, MCCLINTON, HENNESSEY AND HELM,
APRIL 29, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 29, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 2, 2016, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" will take
4 place on May 2, 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" is organized
6 by Boston Scientific in collaboration with Allergy & Asthma
7 Network to raise awareness about severe asthma and improve
8 asthma care throughout the world; and

9 WHEREAS, 2016 is the first year that Boston Scientific
10 organized events and prepared and distributed bronchial
11 thermoplasty materials and resources throughout the Capitol; and

12 WHEREAS, Asthma is a common chronic disorder of the airways
13 that is complex and characterized by variable and recurring
14 symptoms, airflow obstruction, bronchial hyper-responsiveness
15 and an underlying inflammation; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 24 million Americans suffer from

1 asthma; and

2 WHEREAS, Nearly 3,400 people die from asthma every year; and

3 WHEREAS, Bronchial thermoplasty is delivered by the Alair
4 System, the first therapeutic device approved by the Food and
5 Drug Administration in 2010 for adult patients with severe
6 uncontrolled asthma; and

7 WHEREAS, Bronchial thermoplasty targets airway smooth muscles
8 by delivering a controlled specific amount of thermal energy to
9 the airway wall through a dedicated catheter; and

10 WHEREAS, Candidates for bronchial thermoplasty include adults
11 with severe persistent asthma whose asthma is uncontrolled
12 despite adherence to regular maintenance medications; and

13 WHEREAS, Seventy-nine percent of patients who were treated
14 with bronchial thermoplasty reported a significant improvement
15 in their asthma-related quality of life; and

16 WHEREAS, Patients with severe asthma who were treated with
17 bronchial thermoplasty experienced a 32% decrease in severe
18 asthma attacks, an 84% reduction in asthma-related emergency
19 room visits and 66% fewer days lost from work, school and daily
20 activities due to asthma; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of
22 America, 5 of the top 50 most challenging places to live with
23 asthma are located in this Commonwealth, including Philadelphia,
24 Allentown, Pittsburgh, Scranton and Harrisburg; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize May 2,
26 2016, as "Bronchial Thermoplasty Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on all
29 Pennsylvania-licensed insurance companies to cover the procedure
30 of bronchial thermoplasty.