
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 469 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CHARLTON, CAUSER, BERNSTINE, DRISCOLL,
CALTAGIRONE, D. MILLER, HAHN, CUTLER, TOEPEL, NEILSON,
LONGIETTI, CORBIN, WARD, ZIMMERMAN, BIZZARRO, RYAN, BOBACK,
SCHLOSSBERG, BAKER, KINSEY, MILLARD, DUSH, SONNEY, V. BROWN,
MEHAFFIE, O'NEILL, D. COSTA, WATSON, HILL-EVANS, PHILLIPS-
HILL, GROVE, HEFFLEY, DIGIROLAMO, A. HARRIS, MARSICO, ROZZI
AND SCHWEYER, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of September 2017 as "National Spinal Cord
2 Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The central nervous system is made up of two parts,
4 the brain and the spinal cord; and

5 WHEREAS, The spinal cord is considered the information
6 superhighway of the body because it contains bundles of neurons
7 that carry signals to and from the brain, controlling many
8 bodily functions; and

9 WHEREAS, After a spinal cord injury occurs, damaged neurons
10 can no longer emit signals to or from the brain, and the injured
11 individual suffers permanent sensory loss and loss of muscle
12 control; and

13 WHEREAS, Twelve thousand spine-related injuries occur in the
14 United States each year; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 300,000 Americans, including 40,000

1 veterans, have spine-related injuries; and

2 WHEREAS, Spinal cord injuries often result in paralysis of
3 either the lower body, paraplegia, or the upper and lower body,
4 quadriplegia, and often can cause respiratory illness, sleep
5 apnea, a form of high blood pressure known as autonomic
6 dysreflexia, inability to regulate body temperature, chronic
7 pain and impaired use of bladder, bowel and reproductive organs;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Spinal cord injury may also increase an individual's
10 risk for osteoporosis, obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes,
11 therefore making physical activity especially important to the
12 physical and emotional well-being of individuals with spinal
13 cord injuries; and

14 WHEREAS, Every 48 minutes another individual in the United
15 States becomes paralyzed from a spinal cord injury; and

16 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives affirms the necessity
17 of addressing spinal cord-related injuries, including the
18 particular challenges of spinal cord injury care and recovery
19 for individuals with new or existing injuries and their loved
20 ones and caregivers; and

21 WHEREAS, The National Spinal Cord Injury Statistical Center's
22 2016 data sheet shows that the four leading causes of spinal
23 cord injury for both men and women were auto accidents, falls,
24 acts of violence and sports-related activities; and

25 WHEREAS, The same report shows that the average annual cost
26 of care for individuals who had a spinal cord injury ranged from
27 approximately \$350,000 to \$1.06 million the first year after
28 injury, with an estimated lifetime cost of between approximately
29 \$1.1 million and \$4.7 million, depending on the severity of
30 injury and the age of the individual at the time of injury; and

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives further notes the
2 significance of ensuring access to related resources and
3 benefits, advancing medical research and disseminating public
4 education and outreach; and

5 WHEREAS, "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" offers
6 an opportunity for individuals to learn about spinal cord
7 injuries, recognize the daily challenges encountered by injured
8 individuals and acknowledge the achievements of Americans living
9 with spinal cord injury; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs, a leading
11 advocate of "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month,"
12 offers inpatient, outpatient, home care services and respite
13 care services as well as specialty health care programs for
14 persons living with a spinal cord injury and facilitates the
15 progress of related research through its network of specialized
16 care centers and primary care teams; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
18 month of September 2017 as "National Spinal Cord Injury
19 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.