
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1130 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, FITZGERALD, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, READSHAW,
MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, DONATUCCI, BURNS, THOMAS, DIGIROLAMO,
BOBACK, LONGIETTI, RYAN, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, B. O'NEILL,
ROZZI AND HILL-EVANS, OCTOBER 5, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 5, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2018 as "Spina Bifida Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spina bifida is a permanently disabling birth defect
4 in which an area of the spinal column does not properly form and
5 leaves a section of the spinal cord and nerves exposed in the
6 back; and

7 WHEREAS, Spina bifida is the most common central nervous
8 system birth defect, affecting 1,500 to 2,000 of the more than 4
9 million babies born each year; and

10 WHEREAS, Spina bifida varies from person to person and can
11 lead to many impairments, including partial paralysis, bladder
12 and bowel disorders, allergies and social and sexual issues; and

13 WHEREAS, The exact cause of spina bifida is unknown, but it
14 is suspected to be the result of genetic, nutritional and
15 environmental factors; and

16 WHEREAS, Spina bifida is most often diagnosed in prenatal

1 tests and screenings; and

2 WHEREAS, Recent studies have shown that women who add folic
3 acid into their diets significantly reduce the risk of having a
4 child with spina bifida; and

5 WHEREAS, It is therefore recommended that all women of
6 childbearing age consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily; and

7 WHEREAS, There is no cure for spina bifida, and babies with
8 this condition often undergo surgery either in the womb or
9 shortly after birth to close the defect and minimize the risk of
10 infection; and

11 WHEREAS, Each person with spina bifida faces many different
12 challenges and may require different treatments; and

13 WHEREAS, With help, children born with spina bifida can lead
14 very active and full lives; and

15 WHEREAS, The Spina Bifida Association actively engages in
16 advocacy and education efforts to raise national awareness of
17 spina bifida and enhance the lives of children and adults
18 affected by this birth defect; and

19 WHEREAS, "Spina Bifida Awareness Month" increases public
20 awareness of this birth defect, acknowledges initiatives to
21 further understand this condition and celebrates the 177,000
22 Americans who live with the challenges of spina bifida;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 month of October 2018 as "Spina Bifida Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania.