
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 419 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MURT, DiGIROLAMO, ROEBUCK, SONNEY, READSHAW,
HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, RYAN,
FREEMAN, WILLIAMS, HEFFLEY, SCHMITT, BROWN, MERSKI, MADDEN,
KINSEY, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD, SANCHEZ, CALTAGIRONE,
MOUL, JOHNSON-HARRELL, DeLUCA, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND SCHWEYER,
JUNE 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of August 2019 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetically
4 inherited disease affecting the part of the nervous system that
5 controls voluntary muscle movement; and

6 WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death of infants
7 and toddlers, affecting one in every 6,000 to 10,000 children in
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier of
10 the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Among autosomal recessive disorders, SMA is the most
12 common fatal disease and is second in birth prevalence only to
13 cystic fibrosis; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms in the mildest cases of SMA include muscle
15 weakness, muscle twitching and lack of muscle tone; and

1 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder
2 interferes with one's ability to sit unsupported and causes
3 breathing and swallowing difficulties; and

4 WHEREAS, Early detection is vital to managing symptoms and
5 preventing SMA from progressing and interfering with one's basic
6 life functions; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2016, the United States Food and Drug
8 Administration approved the first drug treatment for children
9 and adults with SMA; and

10 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for
11 individuals with SMA starts with awareness; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
13 month of August 2019 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness
14 Month" in Pennsylvania.