
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 425 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, BIZZARRO, ROTHMAN, HENNESSEY, BURNS,
MILLARD, SCHMITT, KORTZ, DIGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI, McNEILL,
RYAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD,
CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW AND MOUL, JUNE 25, 2019

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2019 as "National Myasthenia
2 Gravis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Myasthenia gravis is a chronic autoimmune
4 neuromuscular disorder that causes weakness in the skeletal
5 muscles responsible for moving the arms and legs and for
6 breathing; and

7 WHEREAS, Myasthenia gravis is caused by an error in the
8 transmission of nerve impulses to the muscles that prompts
9 weakness in the different muscle groups and can be fatal without
10 specialized care; and

11 WHEREAS, Myasthenia gravis causes antibodies to block, alter
12 or destroy the receptors that release a neurotransmitter called
13 acetylcholine; and

14 WHEREAS, Acetylcholine is necessary to activate the muscle
15 and cause muscle contractions; and

16 WHEREAS, The symptoms of myasthenia gravis include drooping

1 of one or both eyelids, blurred vision, change in facial
2 expression, difficulty swallowing, shortness of breath, impaired
3 speech and weakness in the arms, hands, fingers, legs or neck;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The distinctive symptom of myasthenia gravis is
6 muscle weakness that worsens after periods of activity and
7 improves with periods of rest; and

8 WHEREAS, Although myasthenia gravis affects men and women
9 across all racial and ethnic groups, the disorder most commonly
10 impacts young adult women under 40 years of age or older men
11 over 60 years of age; and

12 WHEREAS, Even though myasthenia gravis can generally be
13 controlled, there are times during a myasthenic crisis when
14 emergency medical treatment is necessary and muscle weakness
15 requires a ventilator; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health and the National
17 Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) seek
18 greater understanding about the structure and function of the
19 neuromuscular junction that is impacted by myasthenia gravis;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Findings from a recent NINDS-supported study yielded
22 conclusive evidence about the benefits of surgery for
23 individuals suffering from myasthenia gravis who do not have
24 thymoma; and

25 WHEREAS, Researchers are exploring better ways to treat
26 myasthenia gravis by developing new tools to better diagnose
27 individuals with undetectable antibodies and potential
28 biomarkers; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 month of June 2019 as "National Myasthenia Gravis Awareness

1 Month" in Pennsylvania.