
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 592 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, McCLINTON, CALTAGIRONE,
KOSIEROWSKI, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, BURNS, SONNEY, DiGIROLAMO,
RYAN, MURT, HILL-EVANS, ROZZI, HOHENSTEIN, FREEMAN, KINSEY,
ULLMAN, SHUSTERMAN, BERNSTINE, KORTZ, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHWEYER, GALLOWAY, DeLUCA AND HARKINS, OCTOBER 23, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, OCTOBER 23, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2019 as "Childhood Brain Stem
2 Glioma Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and designating
3 November 11, 2019, as "Jax Stone Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Brain stem glioma is a disease in which a tumor
5 occurs on the brain stem, which is the area of the brain that
6 controls the body's breathing, heart rate and muscles used in
7 seeing, hearing, walking, talking and eating; and

8 WHEREAS, Brain stem glioma accounts for approximately 10% to
9 15% of all childhood brain tumors and occurs mostly in children
10 between 6 and 9 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no known cause of most childhood brain
12 tumors, which may be benign or malignant; and

13 WHEREAS, Some of the symptoms associated with brain stem
14 glioma include difficulty with balance, difficulty walking,
15 headaches, weakness and fatigue, abrupt vision problems,
16 increased pressure in the head and unexplained nausea and
17 vomiting and unusual sleepiness or changes in energy level; and

1 WHEREAS, Because brain stem glioma occurs in a vitally
2 important area of the brain, treatment and surgical options are
3 often dangerous and limited; and

4 WHEREAS, The prognosis for children suffering from brain stem
5 glioma is dependent on the type and location of the tumor; and

6 WHEREAS, The two primary classifications of brain stem
7 gliomas are diffuse astrocytomas centered in the pons, also
8 called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPGs) and pilocytic
9 astrocytomas, which occur throughout the brain stem; and

10 WHEREAS, The median survival for children with DIPGs is less
11 than one year, although approximately 10% of children survive
12 longer than two years; and

13 WHEREAS, In contrast, pilocytic astrocytomas have markedly
14 improved prognosis, with five-year overall survival rates
15 exceeding 90%; and

16 WHEREAS, More research is needed to discover the cause of
17 brain stem glioma and develop more effective treatments for
18 children diagnosed with the disease such as Jax Stone; and

19 WHEREAS, Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on November 11, 2004,
20 Jax was the son of Sean Stone and Tara Braendel Durian; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite his challenging diagnosis, Jax displayed a
22 tremendous amount of courage, and, in 2014, was awarded the
23 local "Good Kid of the Year" award for the bravery and
24 compassion he showed toward others in his community; and

25 WHEREAS, The business community in Erie rallied around Jax
26 and his family throughout his fight with brain stem glioma by
27 designating "Jax Stone Week" to raise funds for medical, travel
28 and funeral expenses; and

29 WHEREAS, Jax Stone passed away on July 27, 2014, at his
30 residence in Erie following a difficult battle with malignant

1 brain stem glioma; and

2 WHEREAS, Jax is remembered by his family and community for
3 his kindness, bravery and selflessness during his fight with
4 brain stem glioma; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
6 month of November 2019 as "Childhood Brain Stem Glioma Awareness
7 Month" in Pennsylvania to inform the public about childhood
8 brain stem glioma and support all individuals affected by this
9 disease; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
11 November 11, 2019, as "Jax Stone Day" in Pennsylvania to honor
12 one individual who passed away from the disease at a young age,
13 but was courageous and resilient in his fight.