
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 690 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, BURNS, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, KIM,
KORTZ, BIZZARRO, SHUSTERMAN, KINSEY, MURT, MILLARD, ULLMAN,
FREEMAN, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA, READSHAW AND PASHINSKI,
JANUARY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JANUARY 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 4, 2020, as "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, More than 13,000 Americans die each year as a result
4 of an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a condition in which there is
5 plaque buildup in the walls of the abdominal aorta, causing it
6 to become weak and build up like a balloon; and

7 WHEREAS, The aorta is the largest artery in the body,
8 originating just after the aortic valve connected to the heart
9 and extends through the entire chest and abdomen and carries
10 oxygenated blood away from the heart to supply the body; and

11 WHEREAS, The threshold for an abdominal aortic aneurysm is
12 considered when the aortic diameter is three centimeters or when
13 the abdominal aorta exceeds its normal diameter by 50%; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 1.7% of women and 5% of men have an
15 aortic diameter of three centimeters or more by 65 years of age;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The detection of an abdominal aortic aneurysm is

1 often incidentally on abdominal imaging for another purpose; and

2 WHEREAS, Abdominal aortic aneurysms are usually asymptomatic,
3 showing no signs of its development until rupture; and

4 WHEREAS, Rupture of the abdominal aorta is often lethal, with
5 a mortality rate of 85% to 90%, and of those persons who reach
6 the hospital after an abdominal aortic aneurysm, only 50% to 70%
7 survive; and

8 WHEREAS, The majority of abdominal aortic aneurysms are the
9 result of atherosclerosis, a chronic degenerative disease of the
10 artery wall in which fat, cholesterol and other substances build
11 up in the walls of the arteries and form plaques; and

12 WHEREAS, A major risk factor for the development of an
13 abdominal aortic aneurysm is smoking, and more than 90% of
14 patients with such aneurysms have been smokers; and

15 WHEREAS, Other risk factors include being over 60 years of
16 age, being male, as occurrence in males is four to five times
17 greater than that of females, having a family history of
18 abdominal aortic aneurysms, genetic factors, high cholesterol,
19 high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity; and

20 WHEREAS, Most Americans afflicted with the condition are men
21 over 65 years of age, with the United States Preventive Services
22 Task Force recommending screening in men 65 to 75 years of age
23 with a history of smoking and selective screening in men 65 to
24 75 years of age without a history of smoking; and

25 WHEREAS, Medicare Part B covers an abdominal aortic
26 ultrasound screening once if an individual is considered at
27 risk, meaning, an individual that has a family history of
28 abdominal aortic aneurysms or a man between 65 to 75 years of
29 age that has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in his lifetime; and

30 WHEREAS, Treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysms includes

1 monitoring with MRI or CT scans, controlling high blood pressure
2 and lowering cholesterol, abdominal aortic aneurysm open repair
3 or endovascular aneurysm repair; and

4 WHEREAS, Prevention of abdominal aortic aneurysms from
5 occurring or worsening entails refraining from using tobacco
6 products, maintaining a healthy diet, keeping blood pressure and
7 cholesterol under control and regular physical exercise; and

8 WHEREAS, "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day" seeks to
9 educate Pennsylvanians about health risks associated with the
10 asymptomatic and lethal condition; and

11 WHEREAS, We as a Commonwealth can take the appropriate steps
12 to identify and prevent serious complications due to abdominal
13 aortic aneurysms in Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day" provides
15 the opportunity for residents of this Commonwealth to show
16 support for aging adults living with abdominal aortic aneurysms
17 by educating people on the condition, promoting health
18 screenings, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and commemorating
19 loved ones lost to abdominal aortic aneurysms; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
21 February 4, 2020, as "Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Awareness Day"
22 in Pennsylvania.