
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 934 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, KORTZ, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI,
BURNS, ROZZI, SONNEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SCHMITT, SANCHEZ,
RYAN, READSHAW, NEILSON, FREEMAN, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG,
MALAGARI AND GAINNEY, JULY 8, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JULY 8, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2020 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 1 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

16 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder
17 interferes with one's ability to sit unsupported and causes

1 breathing and swallowing difficulties; and

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

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

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of June 2020 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month"
12 in Pennsylvania.