
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 951 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, OTTEN, SCHMITT, KINSEY, KOSIEROWSKI,
MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, RYAN, SONNEY, BROWN, BERNSTINE,
DALEY, KORTZ, BURNS, PICKETT, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, READSHAW,
NEILSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, JULY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JULY 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2020 as "Hirschsprung's
2 Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to coincide with a
3 global initiative in Australia.

4 WHEREAS, Hirschsprung's disease (HD) is a rare birth defect
5 that causes an absence of certain intestinal nerve cells, which
6 inhibits or prevents the elimination of waste from a newborn
7 baby; and

8 WHEREAS, HD exists in 1 in 5,000 births, and it is four times
9 more common in boys than girls; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of HD are common in other diseases and
11 consequently may be difficult to recognize; and

12 WHEREAS, The symptoms of HD include all of the following:

- 13 (1) Delayed passage of newborn meconium.
14 (2) Ongoing chronic constipation.
15 (3) Excessive vomiting.
16 (4) Unexplained fever.
17 (5) Hard mass and bloated belly;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Nontreatment of HD can lead to malnourishment, a
3 perforated bowel or even an unexpected death from sepsis; and

4 WHEREAS, HD develops during the 4th to 12th week of gestation
5 when nerve cells are migrating from the brain, down the spinal
6 column, to form the intestines; and

7 WHEREAS, There are degrees of severity of HD based on where
8 the migration of nerve cells stops during fetal development; and

9 WHEREAS, A biopsy of internal bowels is necessary for
10 diagnosis of HD; and

11 WHEREAS, When a surgical correction is necessary to treat HD,
12 a pull-through surgery removes the nonfunctioning portion of the
13 intestine; and

14 WHEREAS, In the most severe forms of HD, an intestinal
15 transplant is necessary to treat HD; and

16 WHEREAS, If an individual is suspected of having HD, the
17 individual should seek immediate medical attention; therefore be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
20 month of September 2020 as "Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness
21 Month" in Pennsylvania to coincide with a global initiative in
22 Australia; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives seek to make
24 caregivers of newborn babies in this Commonwealth aware of HD,
25 allowing them to seek an early diagnosis and proper treatment of
26 the disease if necessary.