

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 184 Session of  
2021

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, KANE,  
FONTANA, BROOKS, SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, MUTH, COSTA, STEFANO,  
PITTMAN, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI AND PHILLIPS-HILL,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 20 through 27, 2021, as  
2 "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week"  
3 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of  
4 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

5 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a  
6 debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive  
7 scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung  
8 tissue's ability to transport oxygen; and

9 WHEREAS, IPF progresses quickly, often causing disability or  
10 death within three to five years; and

11 WHEREAS, IPF is the most common form of interstitial lung  
12 disease; and

13 WHEREAS, There is no proven cause of IPF, and it is often  
14 misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed; and

15 WHEREAS, IPF is five times more common than cystic fibrosis  
16 and Lou Gehrig's disease, yet the disease remains virtually  
17 unknown and receives a fraction of the research funding; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 132,000 United States citizens have IPF

1 and approximately 50,000 new cases are diagnosed each year; and

2 WHEREAS, As many as 40,000 people die each year due to IPF,  
3 the same number as breast cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 7,000 Pennsylvanians suffer from IPF;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has become a leader in research  
7 and treatment of IPF, with more than 15% of all lung transplants  
8 in the United States performed in Pennsylvania hospitals; and

9 WHEREAS, Organizations like the Pennsylvania Idiopathic  
10 Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Network play a crucial role in  
11 raising awareness and providing support and education for  
12 patients, families and health care providers throughout this  
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Now more than ever, this education and awareness is  
15 critical for the IPF community, as patients with IPF are at a  
16 higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to the impact  
17 that the disease places on their lungs and their average age of  
18 diagnosis; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 20  
20 through 27, 2021, as "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and  
21 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and  
22 understanding of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.