

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 446 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, FREEMAN,
LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, SONNEY, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, KORTZ,
WILLIAMS, BURNS, MCCLINTON, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD,
NEILSON AND MALAGARI, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing July 22, 2019, as "World Brain Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, "World Brain Day" is celebrated annually on July 22,
3 bringing attention to a different brain condition or disease
4 each year; and

5 WHEREAS, The World Federation of Neurology is partnering with
6 the International Headache Society to support the fifth annual
7 "World Brain Day" to bring migraine out of the shadows and
8 increase education and awareness efforts; and

9 WHEREAS, The key messages that the partnership has chosen
10 include prevalence, disability, education, standard of care and
11 research; and

12 WHEREAS, Migraine is the most common brain disease in the
13 world and the third most common disease overall, estimated to
14 affect one in seven people worldwide and approximately 39
15 million Americans alone; and

16 WHEREAS, Women are more likely to suffer from migraine, with

1 approximately 20% of women and 10% of men reporting migraine
2 symptoms; and

3 WHEREAS, Migraine is more prevalent than diabetes, epilepsy
4 and asthma combined; and

5 WHEREAS, Migraine is characterized by severe head pain,
6 cognitive impairment, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, vertigo,
7 impaired vision and sensitivity to light, sound and touch; and

8 WHEREAS, Migraine is often associated with other health
9 conditions such as stroke, heart disease, epilepsy and
10 depression due to the debilitating impact it can have on one's
11 quality of life and function; and

12 WHEREAS, For those with migraine, more than 75% report a
13 migraine episode or attack at least once a month, and more than
14 half experience disabling effects and impairment; and

15 WHEREAS, Because migraine most often affects those who are
16 considered to be of prime working age, between 25 and 55 years
17 of age, the impact of migraine can have a severe effect on
18 productivity for employers; and

19 WHEREAS, Most recently, it was estimated that employers that
20 offer health care benefits, paid leave and disability insurance
21 pay approximately \$84,000 annually per 1,000 employees for
22 migraine-related expenses, most of which are due to lost work
23 time; and

24 WHEREAS, On average, employees are burdened with an
25 additional \$2,000 in health care expenses in order to manage
26 their migraine; and

27 WHEREAS, Though migraine disorders are largely associated
28 with adulthood, approximately one in eight children suffer from
29 pediatric migraine, and 60% of children report headaches; and

30 WHEREAS, In young children, boys and girls report the same

1 incidence of migraine, but the gap between boys and girls widens
2 during puberty, with more girls diagnosed with migraine than
3 boys; and

4 WHEREAS, Migraine can also present differently in children
5 than in adults with symptoms that are not traditionally
6 associated with migraine, such as acute gastrointestinal pain
7 and vomiting; and

8 WHEREAS, Migraine in adults typically affects one side of the
9 head, but children may report acute pain on both sides of the
10 head; and

11 WHEREAS, Children may struggle to isolate and understand the
12 origin of their pain when accompanied by gastrointestinal signs
13 and symptoms, making it difficult for health care providers to
14 reach a diagnosis; and

15 WHEREAS, Diagnosing and treating pediatric migraine presents
16 unique challenges that do not occur in the management of adult
17 migraine due to the fragility of the developing brain; and

18 WHEREAS, Some medications that are approved for adults have
19 not been approved for children, making it difficult to achieve
20 pain relief in some cases; and

21 WHEREAS, Treatment can include over-the-counter pain
22 relievers, while nonmedication treatment strategies can include
23 cool, dark spaces combined with relaxation techniques; and

24 WHEREAS, Pediatric migraine can be incredibly interruptive
25 for young children trying to actively participate in school and
26 after-school activities; and

27 WHEREAS, Migraine in both adults and children is vastly
28 under-researched, as it receives less research funding than any
29 of the world's most burdensome diseases; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize July

1 22, 2019, as "World Brain Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives offer support and
4 encouragement to those of all ages struggling with migraine
5 disorders; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
7 immense need for increased research and awareness efforts to
8 improve the management and outlook for those who are faced with
9 the effects of migraine, particularly children.