
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 620 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE, KINSEY, READSHAW, NEILSON, BAKER,
DRISCOLL, RYAN, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, TOOHIL, LONGIETTI,
CHARLTON, DUSH, SONNEY, O'NEILL, MILLARD, PICKETT, MURT,
DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, MUSTIO, V. BROWN, MARSICO, VITALI,
BRADFORD, CONKLIN, WARD, D. COSTA, GILLEN, WATSON AND
JOZWIAK, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 27, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Raising awareness of spinal muscular atrophy in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetically
3 inherited disease affecting the part of the nervous system that
4 controls voluntary muscle movement; and

5 WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for
6 infants and toddlers, affecting one in every 11,000 births in
7 the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, One in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier of
9 SMA; and

10 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 237,083 SMA carriers in
11 Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 13 babies are born with SMA annually in
13 Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, Among autosomal recessive disorders, SMA is the most
15 common fatal disease and is second in birth prevalence only to

1 cystic fibrosis; and

2 WHEREAS, Symptoms in the mildest cases of SMA include muscle
3 weakness, muscle twitching and lack of muscle tone; and

4 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder can
5 interfere with one's ability to sit unsupported and cause
6 difficulty breathing and swallowing; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection is vital to preventing SMA from
8 progressing and interfering with one's basic life functions; and

9 WHEREAS, Significant clinical history and natural history
10 indicate that early treatment is necessary to provide the best
11 outcomes for those affected by SMA; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to therapies that manage symptoms of SMA
13 among children and adults, the Food and Drug Administration has
14 recently approved the first SMA treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for people
16 with SMA starts with awareness; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives raise awareness
18 of spinal muscular atrophy in Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
20 Department of Health to analyze whether it is appropriate to add
21 SMA to the newborn screening list.