
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 967 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY F. KELLER, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BRADFORD, V. BROWN,
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, CUTLER,
DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, GILLEN, GINGRICH, HAHN, HEFFLEY,
HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, JOZWIAK, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MAJOR,
MARSICO, MCGINNIS, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, READSHAW, ROSS,
SONNEY, TOOHIL, VEREB, WARD, WATSON AND WHEELAND,
AUGUST 16, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 16, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2016 as "Chiari Malformation
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chiari malformation, as recognized by the National
4 Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) of the
5 National Institutes of Health, includes a complex group of
6 disorders characterized by herniation of the cerebellum; and

7 WHEREAS, The herniated tissue blocks the circulation of
8 cerebrospinal fluid in the brain, which can lead to the
9 formation of a cavity within the spinal cord; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of type I Chiari malformation include
11 severe headache, dizziness, vertigo, disequilibrium, visual
12 disturbances, difficulty swallowing, heart palpitations, sleep
13 apnea, impaired fine motor skills, chronic fatigue and painful
14 tingling of the hands and feet; and

15 WHEREAS, Because of the complex symptomology, patients with

1 type I Chiari malformation are frequently misdiagnosed; and
2 WHEREAS, Type II Chiari malformation, also called Arnold-
3 Chiari malformation, is usually accompanied by a

4 myelomeningocele, a form of spina bifida that occurs when the
5 spinal canal and the backbone do not close before birth; and

6 WHEREAS, Protusion of the spinal meninges and spinal cord
7 through an opening in the back can result in partial or complete
8 paralysis below the spinal opening; and

9 WHEREAS, Type III Chiari malformation, the most serious form,
10 results in severe and often irreversible neurological defects;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, While treatment does not follow a certain and
13 definitive path, medication may ease certain symptoms such as
14 pain; and

15 WHEREAS, Surgery is often the only treatment available to
16 correct functional disturbances or halt the progression of
17 damage to the central nervous system; and

18 WHEREAS, NINDS is conducting research to find alternative
19 surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to
20 create improved treatment and prevention plans; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of September 2016 as "Chiari Malformation Awareness Month"
23 in Pennsylvania to promote awareness of and advocacy for this
24 important cause.