
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 107 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, KEARNEY, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, BROOKS,
J. WARD, SANTARSIERO, MENSCH, L. WILLIAMS, HUGHES, FONTANA,
PITTMAN, SCAVELLO, COSTA, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL AND YUDICHAK,
MAY 6, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 6, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2021 as "Stroke Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death overall
4 and the fourth leading cause of death among women in the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, Heart disease and stroke combined are the number one
7 killer of women in this country; and

8 WHEREAS, High blood pressure is one of the leading,
9 controllable risk factors for stroke in men and women; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly half of all adults in the United States have
11 high blood pressure, defined as a reading higher than 120/80;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Black and Latina women who have been pregnant are at
14 an increased risk for developing high blood pressure and having
15 a stroke; and

16 WHEREAS, Pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are
17 rising at an alarming rate; and

1 WHEREAS, Between 1987 and 2015, pregnancy-related deaths rose
2 by 140%; and

3 WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of
4 pregnancy-related deaths; and

5 WHEREAS, In the United States high blood pressure during
6 pregnancy, or Preeclampsia, is becoming more common; and

7 WHEREAS, Preeclampsia is one of the most common issues facing
8 mothers, increasing a woman's chances of eventually dying of
9 cardiovascular disease by 75%; and

10 WHEREAS, Even though women face unique risks for stroke they
11 can help to assure a healthier tomorrow by checking their blood
12 pressure each morning, talking to their healthcare team if
13 readings are consistently above 120/80 and getting active and
14 dropping one unhealthy food from their day; and

15 WHEREAS, New and effective treatments have been developed to
16 treat and minimize the severity and damaging effect of strokes
17 when administered as soon as possible after symptom onset; and

18 WHEREAS, The F.A.S.T. warning signs and symptoms of stroke
19 include face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty and time
20 to call 911; and

21 WHEREAS, Beyond F.A.S.T., additional stroke warning signs and
22 symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or
23 leg especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion,
24 trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one
25 or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance
26 or coordination and sudden severe headache with no known cause;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, During "Stroke Awareness Month" in May 2021, and
29 year-round, the American Stroke Association's "Together to End
30 Stroke®" initiative encourages Americans to manage their blood

1 pressure, memorize and share the stroke warning signs and call
2 911 at the first sign of a stroke; and

3 WHEREAS, Much more research and education are needed to help
4 Americans prevent, treat and beat stroke; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of May 2021 as
6 "Stroke Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of this
8 Commonwealth to familiarize themselves with the risk factors
9 associated with stroke, recognize the warning signs and symptoms
10 and dial 911 immediately on the first sign of a stroke to reduce
11 the devastating effects of stroke in this Commonwealth.