
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 164 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, SCARNATI, DINNIMAN, MCGARRIGLE,
FONTANA, COSTA, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, SABATINA, FARNESE,
MARTIN, KILLION, AUMENT, BOSCOLA, SCAVELLO, HUTCHINSON,
STREET, HUGHES AND VULAKOVICH, JUNE 30, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 30, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 30, 2017, as "Arthrogryposis Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Arthrogryposis, or arthrogryposis multiplex
4 congenita, comprises more than 300 different disorders, all
5 characterized by multiple joint contractures found throughout
6 the body at birth; and

7 WHEREAS, "Arthrogryposis" literally means curving of joints,
8 "multiplex" indicates more than one joint is affected and
9 "congenita" indicates the condition is present at birth; and

10 WHEREAS, The most common universal symptom of arthrogryposis
11 is contracture, meaning limited or absent movement around small
12 and large joints; and

13 WHEREAS, Often the muscles around affected joints are thin,
14 weak, stiff or missing, and extra tissue may have formed around
15 the joints holding them in place; and

16 WHEREAS, The overall prevalence of arthrogryposis is
17 estimated at 1 in every 3,000 live births; and

1 WHEREAS, The specific symptoms of arthrogryposis and their
2 severity can vary dramatically from one child to another, with
3 some children being mildly affected while others are seriously
4 affected; and

5 WHEREAS, The most common type of arthrogryposis is called
6 amyoplasia, in which the hands, wrists, elbows, shoulders, hips,
7 feet and knees are affected and, in more severe types, every
8 joint can be affected, including the jaw and spine; and

9 WHEREAS, Arthrogryposis results from fetal akinesia, which is
10 characterized by a lack of fetal movement; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no cure for arthrogryposis, only treatment
12 to reduce the severity of the joint contractures and increase
13 muscle strength to maximize the function level of the
14 individual; and

15 WHEREAS, Treatment often includes stretching the joints
16 multiple times per day, serial casting, physical, occupational
17 and speech therapy, splinting, bracing, tendon release and
18 lengthening, surgical bone cutting, called ostcotomy, and
19 external fixators; and

20 WHEREAS, Arthrogryposis may be caused by genetic and
21 environmental factors, although the exact causes of
22 arthrogryposis are unknown; and

23 WHEREAS, More research needs to be done to find the causes of
24 arthrogryposis, to map the genes in genetic types and long-term
25 outcome studies of common surgical procedures performed;
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize June 30, 2017, as
28 "Arthrogryposis Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.