
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, JANUARY 29, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 29, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 30, 2018, as "CTE Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE is a
4 degenerative brain disease that appears in persons with a
5 history of repetitive brain trauma sustained over a period of
6 years; and

7 WHEREAS, CTE was first described in 1928 by Dr. Harrison
8 Martland in a study published in the *Journal of the American*
9 *Medical Association* linking brain injury and boxing (Martland,
10 Harrison S. (1928) "Punch Drunk." JAMA 91(15): 1103-1107); and

11 WHEREAS, It was not until 2002 that Dr. Bennet Omalu
12 discovered the first evidence of CTE in a professional football
13 player and, together with his colleagues at the University of
14 Pittsburgh, published the details of his groundbreaking findings
15 in 2005 (Omalu, B., DeKosky S., Minster, R., Kamboh, M.,
16 Hamilton, R., & Wecht, C. (2005) "Chronic Traumatic
17 Encephalopathy in a National Football League Player."
18 *Neurosurgery*, 57(1), 128-134); and

1 WHEREAS, CTE is caused by a buildup of an abnormal protein
2 called tau in the brain which leads to brain cell death; and

3 WHEREAS, The risk of developing CTE is greatest among
4 athletes and military veterans who frequently endure repeated
5 subconcussive blows to the head from playing contact sports or
6 suffer traumatic injury from military training or blasting, but
7 CTE also appears in survivors of domestic abuse and persons with
8 epilepsy; and

9 WHEREAS, Although symptoms associated with CTE, such as
10 memory loss, tremors, progressive dementia, depression, suicidal
11 thoughts, impaired judgment, paranoia and substance abuse and
12 addiction, most often present years or decades after the brain
13 trauma or hits cease, symptoms have been found in a patient as
14 young as 17 years of age; and

15 WHEREAS, Currently, CTE can only be definitively diagnosed
16 after death through postmortem neuropathological analysis; and

17 WHEREAS, Advocacy organizations, health care providers and
18 institutional researchers are dedicated to studying the causes
19 and symptoms of CTE in order to enable parents and families to
20 make informed decisions regarding the best interests of their
21 children in youth sports and to develop an earlier diagnostic
22 tool so patients may address CTE symptoms as early as possible;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, One such advocacy organization is the Patrick Risha
25 CTE Awareness Foundation, founded by the family of Patrick
26 Risha, who suffered from CTE after playing youth, high school
27 and college football; and

28 WHEREAS, The mission of the Patrick Risha CTE Awareness
29 Foundation is to provide parents of school-age children, who
30 have very susceptible brains, with information about the dangers

1 of sports which involve head trauma; and

2 WHEREAS, The Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation and other
3 organizations celebrate "CTE Awareness Day" across the United
4 States in order to reflect on those individuals lost to CTE,
5 help those suffering with the disease, and, most importantly,
6 stop the disease; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania recognize January
8 30, 2018, as "CTE Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.