

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 482 Session of  
2018

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, OCTOBER 17, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 17, 2018

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2018 as "Eczema Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Eczema is a set of skin conditions that cause red,  
4 itchy and inflamed skin and has profound medical, psychosocial  
5 and economic effects on patients, families and their  
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of eczema in the United States is  
8 10.1%, affecting more than 31.6 million children and adults; and

9 WHEREAS, Eczema's medical effects include dry, cracked and  
10 scaly skin, incessant itch, chronic pain and sleep deprivation;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 41.5% of adult eczema patients report  
13 having a co-occurring diagnosis of depression and 47.9% report  
14 having a co-occurring diagnosis of asthma; and

15 WHEREAS, Adults and children with eczema also frequently  
16 exhibit comorbidities such as asthma, allergic rhinitis, food  
17 allergies, ADHD, bacterial and viral infections and  
18 hypertension; and

1 WHEREAS, Eczema's disease burden also includes anxiety,  
2 stress on social and intimate relationships, increased suicidal  
3 ideation, delayed developmental achievement, reduced self-  
4 esteem, restrictions on diet and exercise, extensive burdens on  
5 caregivers and challenges with medication adherence; and

6 WHEREAS, Eczema can result in missed days of school and work  
7 for patients and caregivers, disability and reduced ability  
8 within a patient's chosen profession, unemployment and  
9 underemployment and other opportunity costs; and

10 WHEREAS, The direct medical costs of the three most common  
11 types of eczema exceed \$2.17 billion and the indirect medical  
12 costs exceed \$927 million; and

13 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of eczema patients report experiencing  
14 significant access barriers, including high out-of-pocket costs  
15 and insurance requirements that delay patients' access to  
16 medications; and

17 WHEREAS, There is no cure for eczema but emerging  
18 technologies and medications promise a much brighter future for  
19 eczema patients; and

20 WHEREAS, Raising awareness of eczema as a public health issue  
21 educates the public on the ways eczema affects the lives of  
22 those with the disease and their families and how they can have  
23 access to affordable and effective treatments; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2018  
25 as "Eczema Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.