
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 483 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, FERLO, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,
ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, SCHWANK, HUGHES, SMITH,
FONTANA, SOLOBAY, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, FARNESE AND
PILEGGI, OCTOBER 15, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 15, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 19 through 25, 2014, as
2 "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries affect the network of
4 nerves that control the muscles of the shoulder, arm, elbow,
5 wrist, hand and finger and can result in full to partial
6 paralysis of one or both arms; and

7 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries occur often during the
8 birthing process; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 2 to 5 per 1,000 newborns are affected
10 by brachial plexus injuries; and

11 WHEREAS, Careful monitoring of pregnant women exhibiting any
12 or all of the documented risk factors associated with shoulder
13 dystocia and brachial plexus birth injuries and the proper use
14 of recommended maneuvers during delivery of a shoulder dystocia
15 baby can help prevent the occurrence of these injuries; and

16 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries can occur as a result of
17 trauma such as automobile, motorcycle or boating accidents,

1 sports injuries ("burners" or "stingers"), animal bites, gunshot
2 or puncture wounds, specific medical treatments, procedures and
3 surgeries or due to viral diseases; and

4 WHEREAS, Persons affected by brachial plexus injuries
5 experience pain in muscles, joints and ligaments, weakness,
6 atrophy and numbness of the affected limb and sometimes
7 respiratory difficulties; and

8 WHEREAS, Persons affected by brachial plexus injuries can
9 experience secondary issues, which include low tone (hypotonia),
10 developmental delays, speech dysfunction, chronic ear infections
11 on the affected side, possible hearing loss, nail bed
12 dysfunction, weakness of the foot on the affected side, postural
13 issues that could lead to scoliosis and other secondary health
14 issues; and

15 WHEREAS, Brachial plexus injuries present unique challenges
16 for all those affected, including challenges related to having
17 the full use of only one arm, as well as the challenges
18 associated with having a disability of any kind in our
19 contemporary society; and

20 WHEREAS, Those affected by brachial plexus injuries often
21 experience delayed diagnosis and lack of access to information
22 related to current and ground-breaking treatment options,
23 including surgical procedures available that could enhance
24 function of the affected limb; and

25 WHEREAS, Early intervention by specialized physicians and
26 experienced occupational and physical therapists is essential
27 for optimum functional improvement related to a brachial plexus
28 injury; and

29 WHEREAS, The brachial plexus injury community and the United
30 Brachial Plexus Network (UBPN) Awareness Committee are promoting

1 Brachial Plexus Awareness Week to inform and educate the general
2 public, the medical community, individuals with brachial plexus
3 injuries and their families; and

4 WHEREAS, Increased understanding and awareness of brachial
5 plexus injuries will ensure hope of a better future for people
6 affected, as well as possibly preventing injury from occurring;
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 19 through 25,
9 2014, as "Brachial Plexus Injury Awareness Week" in
10 Pennsylvania.