

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-112

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 4, 2019

To recognize September 25th, 2019 as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”.

WHEREAS, ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating the degeneration or dysfunction of a part of the brain called the cerebellum, which contributes to the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of movements;

WHEREAS, cerebellar ataxia is an umbrella term used to classify a group of neurodegenerative diseases caused by cerebellar dysfunction including, but not limited to, ataxia telangiectasia, episodic ataxia, Friedreich’s ataxia, spinocerebellar ataxia, and sporadic ataxia;

WHEREAS, cerebellar ataxia can also occur due to non-neurodegenerative conditions such as strokes and other neurological diseases;

WHEREAS, neurodegenerative cerebellar ataxia is estimated to affect 150,000 people of all ages, genders, and races in the United States;

WHEREAS, there are roughly one dozen neurodegenerative cerebellar ataxia patients residing in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, symptoms of ataxia progress over time causing lack of coordination, slurred speech, eye movement abnormalities, difficulty walking, tremors, and trouble eating and swallowing;

WHEREAS, most patients with neurodegenerative ataxia will require the use of wheelchairs and walkers to aid in their mobility; and

WHEREAS, some symptoms can be managed by medication, but there is still no effective treatment or cure for neurodegenerative ataxia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “National Ataxia Awareness Day Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes National Ataxia Awareness Day as part of its efforts to raise awareness for ataxia and those living with it in the District of Columbia, and to support research developments towards a cure.

Sec 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.