
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1099 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, DEAN, REGAN, BIZZARRO, TOOHL, VEREB,
DIGIROLAMO, KNOWLES, COOK-ARTIS, CAUSER, SCHLOSSBERG,
HENNESSEY, O'BRIEN, KIRKLAND, DRISCOLL, SAYLOR, MILLARD,
PICKETT, DUSH, SONNEY, WATSON, FREEMAN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,
COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, D. COSTA, ROSS, McCARTER, WARD, MAHONEY,
DELOZIER, READSHAW, MARSICO, GILLEN, MILNE AND PAYNE,
OCTOBER 24, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 24, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 12, 2016, as "International CJD Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is a rare
4 neurodegenerative disease categorized as a prion disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Prions represent an unusual class of infectious
6 agents composed entirely of misfolded prion proteins; and

7 WHEREAS, Abnormal prion proteins in the brain and spinal
8 fluid trigger significant mental and physical disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, In its early stages, CJD causes failing memory,
10 behavioral changes, lack of coordination and visual
11 disturbances; and

12 WHEREAS, Mental deterioration becomes pronounced as the
13 illness progresses; and

14 WHEREAS, Involuntary movements, blindness, weakness of
15 extremities and coma may occur; and

1 WHEREAS, CJD symptoms typically appear in later life; and
2 WHEREAS, Individuals with CJD become increasingly dependent
3 on caregivers; and

4 WHEREAS, CJD is usually fatal within months of onset; and

5 WHEREAS, No specific treatment exists to eradicate the
6 infectious agent or slow the progression from disability to
7 death; and

8 WHEREAS, CJD is reported worldwide, distributed without
9 geographic clustering at a rate of one person per million per
10 year; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 300 cases per year are diagnosed in
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Sporadic CJD, representing approximately 85% of
14 cases, occurs with no apparent predisposing factors; and

15 WHEREAS, Inherited CJD, representing approximately 10% of
16 cases, features a predisposition to mutation of the prion
17 protein coding gene; and

18 WHEREAS, Acquired CJD is transmitted through the use of
19 hormones or tissues obtained from an infected cadaver donor; and

20 WHEREAS, Diagnosis of CJD involves clinical and
21 neuropathological examination to rule out other diseases; and

22 WHEREAS, Conclusive diagnosis follows brain biopsy or autopsy
23 only; and

24 WHEREAS, Research focuses on treatment options, infection
25 control, palliative care and presymptomatic testing; and

26 WHEREAS, The Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation, Inc., a
27 nonprofit volunteer organization, offers a toll-free HelpLine,
28 facilitates referrals and support groups and hosts an annual
29 family conference for the benefit of affected persons and
30 medical professionals; and

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives joins in urging greater
2 awareness, collaboration and support relating to this invariably
3 fatal prion disease; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
5 November 12, 2016, as "International CJD Awareness Day" in
6 Pennsylvania.