
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1182 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, MADDEN, READSHAW, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO,
MILLARD, RYAN, DIGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI, J. McNEILL, NEILSON,
THOMAS AND BURNS, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 2, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 15, 2018, as "Ohtahara Syndrome Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Ohtahara syndrome is a rare neurological disorder
4 that is characterized by seizures and affects infants within the
5 first three months of life; and

6 WHEREAS, Ohtahara syndrome is most commonly caused by
7 metabolic disorders or structural damage in the brain; and

8 WHEREAS, The cause of many cases of Ohtahara syndrome cannot
9 be determined; and

10 WHEREAS, As Ohtahara syndrome progresses, seizures become
11 more frequent and approximately one in three infants develop
12 other types of seizure disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, Developmental delays and motor and cognitive
14 problems are often present and can grow increasingly worse; and

15 WHEREAS, Treating this condition is extremely difficult as
16 the medications that are typically used to treat seizure
17 disorders are rarely effective in treating Ohtahara syndrome;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Some children may die before they reach two years of
3 age, and children who survive are typically left with severe
4 physical and cognitive disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Ohtahara syndrome is classified as a rare disease,
6 affecting fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Because the number of individuals suffering from
9 Ohtahara syndrome is so small, research efforts to provide
10 effective treatments are often slow moving and require greater
11 awareness; and

12 WHEREAS, The month of November is celebrated as "National
13 Epilepsy Awareness Month" in an effort to end the stigma
14 surrounding epilepsy and generate compassion for the 3.4 million
15 Americans living with an epilepsy disorder such as Ohtahara
16 syndrome; and

17 WHEREAS, Hope for children with Ohtahara syndrome relies on
18 the medical and research community understanding more about this
19 rare form of epilepsy and discovering treatments that may be the
20 most effective; and

21 WHEREAS, "Ohtahara Syndrome Awareness Day" highlights these
22 research efforts and acknowledges the devastating impact this
23 disorder has on children and their families; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
25 November 15, 2018, as "Ohtahara Syndrome Awareness Day" in
26 Pennsylvania.