

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 2 through 8, 2014, as "Charcot-
2 Marie-Tooth Association Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) is the most common
4 inherited peripheral neuropathy disorder, estimated to affect
5 one in every 2,500 individuals, or more than 2.8 million
6 individuals worldwide, without regard to age, gender or
7 ethnicity; and

8 WHEREAS, CMT was identified in 1886 by three physicians,
9 Jean-Martin Charcot, Pierre Marie and Howard Henry Tooth; and

10 WHEREAS, CMT is a progressive disorder, which slowly damages
11 the nerve cells leading to an individual's extremities; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no way to predict how far or how fast the
13 disease will progress, and the severity varies widely from
14 individual to individual, with some individuals able to go about
15 their lives with only moderate difficulty and other individuals
.6 requiring greater assistance; and

.7 WHEREAS, In some cases, CMT can even be fatal; and

1 WHEREAS, While there is no cure for CMT, physical therapy
2 improves the muscle strength and endurance of individuals with
3 CMT; and

4 WHEREAS, The Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA) in
5 Chester, Pennsylvania, has educated and served this Commonwealth
6 for more than 25 years; and

7 WHEREAS, CMTA is leading the charge for educational programs
8 dedicated to training doctors at medical colleges in this
9 Commonwealth to identify and treat CMT symptoms; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2008, CMTA launched the Strategy to Accelerate
11 Research (STAR), a strategic research program, to maximize
12 breakthroughs in genetics and dramatically speed up the pace of
13 CMT research; and

14 WHEREAS, The opportunities associated with STAR stem from the
15 fact that the causes of CMT have been pinpointed, leading to the
16 identification of 73 specific gene defects; and

17 WHEREAS, These genetic mutations can be replicated in
18 laboratory models and grown as tissue cultures which opens an
19 extraordinary window of opportunity to develop treatments and
20 cures for CMT in the immediate and foreseeable future; therefore
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 week of June 2 through 8, 2014, as "Charcot-Marie-Tooth
24 Association Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.