

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of August 2018 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetically
4 inherited disease affecting the part of the nervous system that
5 controls voluntary muscle movement; and

6 WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death of infants
7 and toddlers, affecting one in every 6,000 to 10,000 people in
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, One in every 50 Americans is a genetic carrier of
10 the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Among autosomal recessive disorders, SMA is the most
12 common fatal disease and is second in birth prevalence only to
13 cystic fibrosis; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms in the mildest cases of SMA include muscle
15 weakness, muscle twitching and lack of muscle tone; and

16 WHEREAS, In the most severe cases, this rare disorder
17 interferes with one's ability to sit unsupported and causes

1 breathing and swallowing difficulties; and

2 WHEREAS, Early detection is vital to managing symptoms and
3 preventing SMA from progressing and interfering with one's basic
4 life functions; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration
6 recently approved the first treatment for children and adults
7 with SMA; and

8 WHEREAS, Improving the length and quality of life for
9 individuals with SMA starts with awareness; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of August 2018 as "Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness
12 Month" in Pennsylvania.