
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 427 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY MIRANDA, COHEN, MCNEILL, BOBACK, BROWNLEE, BURNS,
DONATUCCI, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, K. BOYLE, V. BROWN,
DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, FLECK, BAKER,
FRANKEL, HARHART, MAHONEY, BENNINGHOFF, GINGRICH,
CALTAGIRONE, ROSS, MURT, MAJOR AND QUINN, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing September 2013 as "Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Atrial fibrillation, or A-fib, is the most common
4 type of cardiac arrhythmia; and

5 WHEREAS, A-fib may cause no symptoms, but it is often
6 associated with palpitations, fainting, chest pain or congestive
7 heart failure; and

8 WHEREAS, The American College of Cardiology (ACC), American
9 Heart Association (AHA) and the European Society of Cardiology
10 (ESC) established an A-fib classification system which is
11 defined by episode timing and termination and includes first
12 detected A-Fib, paroxysmal A-fib, persistent A-fib and permanent
13 A-fib; and

14 WHEREAS, ACC, AHA and ESC guidelines describe additional
15 categories of A-fib which are defined in terms of other
16 characteristics and include lone A-fib, secondary A-fib and non-

1 valvular A-fib (NVAF); and

2 WHEREAS, According to the ACC, AHA and ESC, NVAF makes up
3 approximately 95% of atrial fibrillation cases and affects more
4 than 5 million people in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Framingham Study, AHA and the
6 National Stroke Association, individuals with NVAF have five
7 times greater risk of stroke and about 15% of strokes is due to
8 A-fib; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Biotechnology
10 Information, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death among
11 Hispanics and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders
12 and Stroke has found that Hispanics have a higher rate of
13 strokes at a younger age than Caucasians; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2010, the total cost of cardiovascular diseases
15 in the United States was estimated at \$444 billion and treatment
16 of these diseases accounts for about \$1 of every \$6 spent on
17 health care in this country according to the Centers for Disease
18 Control; and

19 WHEREAS, As of 2010, NVAF alone cost an estimated \$6.65
20 billion per year, including the costs of hospitalization,
21 inpatient and outpatient physician care, office visits and
22 emergency department visits; and

23 WHEREAS, NVAF is a serious health issue deserving attention
24 from State health officials; and

25 WHEREAS, Increased community awareness of the signs and
26 symptoms related to NVAF can improve patient outcomes before
27 suffering from devastating consequences; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
29 harmful effects of non-valvular atrial fibrillation and
30 recognize September 2013 as "Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation

1 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, and urge all citizens to
2 support the need for non-valvular atrial fibrillation awareness
3 and education regarding the risks posed by NVAF and the
4 availability of treatment options.