
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 210 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, ROZZI,
SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, DONAHUE, MALAGARI, HADDOCK, KHAN, CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, CERRATO AND CONKLIN, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 15, 2023, 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

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

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

17 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
24 November 15, 2023, as "Ohtahara Syndrome Awareness Day" in
25 Pennsylvania.