

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize September 25th, 2019 as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”.

WHEREAS, ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating the degeneration or dysfunction of a part of the brain called the cerebellum, which contributes to the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of movements;

WHEREAS, cerebellar ataxia is an umbrella term used to classify a group of neurodegenerative diseases caused by cerebellar dysfunction including, but not limited to, Ataxia Telangiectasia, Episodic Ataxia, Friedreich’s Ataxia, Spinocerebellar Ataxia, and Sporadic Ataxia;

WHEREAS, cerebellar ataxia can also occur due to non-neurodegenerative conditions such as strokes and other neurological diseases;

WHEREAS, neurodegenerative cerebellar ataxia is estimated to affect 150,000 people of all ages, genders, and races in the United States;

WHEREAS, there are roughly one dozen neurodegenerative cerebellar ataxia patients residing in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, symptoms of ataxia progress over time causing lack of coordination, slurred speech, eye movement abnormalities, difficulty walking, tremors, and trouble eating and swallowing;

WHEREAS, most patients with neurodegenerative ataxia will require the use of wheelchairs and walkers to aid in their mobility; and

1 WHEREAS, some symptoms can be managed by medication, but there is still no
2 effective treatment or cure for neurodegenerative ataxia;

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4 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
5 That this resolution may be cited as the “National Ataxia Awareness Day Recognition Resolution
6 of 2019”.

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8 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby recognizes National Ataxia
9 Awareness Day as part of its efforts to raise awareness for ataxia and those living with it in the
10 District of Columbia, and to support research developments towards a cure.

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12 Sec 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the
13 District of Columbia Register.