
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 372 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, MARSICO, KINSEY,
MILLARD, THOMAS, BIZZARRO, TOOHIL, D. COSTA, WARD,
SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, PASHINSKI, HENNESSEY,
READSHAW, V. BROWN, DRISCOLL, NEILSON, WARREN AND ROZZI,
JUNE 5, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 5, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2017 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that is
4 found universally throughout all geographic locations and
5 socioeconomic groups and has infected between 50% and 80% of
6 adults in the United States who have reached 40 years of age;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, CMV belongs to the same group of viruses that
9 include chickenpox, shingles, mononucleosis and herpes simplex
10 viruses and remains with a person for life once infected; and

11 WHEREAS, Most healthy adults and children who are infected
12 with CMV will have few, if any, signs or symptoms and CMV often
13 goes undiagnosed; and

14 WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 60% of women are
15 at risk for contracting CMV during pregnancy, with the highest
16 risk being among pregnant women who already have young children

1 or who work with young children; and

2 WHEREAS, Due to its prevalence, CMV is the virus most
3 frequently transmitted by an infected mother to a child before
4 or during birth; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 1 in
6 150, or 30,000, children are born with congenital CMV, causing
7 an estimated 400 deaths and leaving approximately 5,000 children
8 with permanent disabilities, including hearing or vision loss or
9 intellectual disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, More children are adversely affected by congenital
11 CMV than by several better-known childhood diseases or syndromes
12 such as Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome and spina bifida;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Congenital CMV is more common than the 34 combined
15 metabolic and endocrine disorders on the Recommended Uniform
16 Screening Panel for newborns; and

17 WHEREAS, In the United States, only 9% of women have heard of
18 CMV, compared with 97% who have heard of Down syndrome and 98%
19 who have heard of HIV/AIDS; and

20 WHEREAS, Every woman of childbearing age should know her CMV
21 status by asking her doctor for a CMV blood test; and

22 WHEREAS, To prevent CMV, women should avoid saliva and other
23 bodily fluids of children under 6 years of age and practice
24 frequent hand washing with soap and water; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 month of June 2017 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month" in
27 Pennsylvania and encourage all residents to work within their
28 communities to increase awareness of the risks of CMV and how to
29 take steps to prevent the spread of this disease especially
30 among pregnant women.