

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 385 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, DIGIROLAMO, GROVE, MURT, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, C. PARKER, ROSS, LONGIETTI, SCHWEYER, J. HARRIS, V. BROWN, BAKER, KINSEY, ACOSTA, KIRKLAND, MILLARD, BISHOP, READSHAW, GOODMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, COHEN, ENGLISH, BOBACK, DUSH, SONNEY, KIM, ROZZI, BOYLE, DAVIDSON, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD, PAYNE, EVERETT, HEFFLEY, THOMAS, MARSICO, SAINATO, ROEBUCK AND FARINA, JUNE 16, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 16, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 19, 2015, as "World Sickle Cell Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 2,000
4 infants are born with sickle cell disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a blood disorder that affects
6 red blood cells; and

7 WHEREAS, Red blood cells which are normally round and soft
8 become sickle-shaped, making it difficult for these cells to
9 pass through small blood vessels; and

10 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease occurs when a child inherits two
11 sickle hemoglobin genes, one from each parent; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no known universal cure for sickle cell
13 disease; and

14 WHEREAS, The complications from this serious disease can be
15 fatal, making the primary goal of health care providers to

1 prevent complications such as sickle cell pain crisis; and

2 WHEREAS, Children with sickle cell disease require ongoing
3 medical attention and typically require hospitalization on an
4 intermittent, sometimes ongoing basis; and

5 WHEREAS, Hospitalizations and home recovery result in a
6 school-age child missing an average of one month of school per
7 year, which creates special challenges for the children, their
8 parents, educators and social workers; and

9 WHEREAS, If hospitalization occurs, this can be a difficult
10 time for children and their families, often causing economic
11 hardship that requires financial support for the families; and

12 WHEREAS, In the United States, sickle cell disease is most
13 common in African Americans, occurring in 1 in every 500 births
14 in this ethnic group, while also occurring in 1 in every 36,000
15 Hispanic-American births, and it also affects those of Indian,
16 Mediterranean and southern European descent; and

17 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people
18 in the United States and millions worldwide; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2009, the World Health Organization designated
20 June 19 as "World Sickle Cell Day"; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
22 19, 2015, as "World Sickle Cell Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 Ms. Andrea Williams, Executive Director, Children's Sickle Cell
26 Foundation, Inc., Gove Business Center, 226 Paul Street, Suite
27 105, Pittsburgh, PA 15211.