
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 649 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, BURNS, READSHAW, KULIK, D. COSTA, RYAN, NEILSON, BAKER, SCHLOSSBERG, TOOHL, DIGIROLAMO, CHARLTON, CALTAGIRONE, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN, THOMAS, DONATUCCI, MILLARD, BOBACK, R. BROWN, MARSICO, PASHINSKI, LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD, J. McNEILL, HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON, WARD, MURT, B. MILLER, M. QUINN, SCHWEYER, PICKETT, MEHAFFIE, WARREN AND WATSON, JANUARY 22, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 22, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2018, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis is a progressive inflammatory
4 disease causing damage to joint and organ tissues, resulting in
5 severe pain, frequent disability and increased mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis, also known as rheumatoid
7 disease, affects approximately 1% of the world's population,
8 with approximately 2 million Americans currently diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of rheumatoid disease include joint
10 pain, fatigue, fevers, stiffness, hoarseness and dry eyes; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a lack of awareness about rheumatoid
12 disease since it is often presumed to be a type of arthritis,
13 leading to problems with disability accommodations, clinical
14 care, health care reimbursement and research funding; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that rheumatoid arthritis

1 patients have a 50% higher risk of heart attack, twice the risk
2 of heart failure and an increase in peripheral vascular disease
3 than people who do not have rheumatoid arthritis; and

4 WHEREAS, The lifetime risk of developing the disease is 3.6%
5 for women and 1.7% for men; and

6 WHEREAS, "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" comes at the start of
7 "American Heart Month," underscoring the impact rheumatoid
8 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes
10 February 2, 2018, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to
11 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
13 February 2, 2018, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.