
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 681 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARCH 10, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2014, 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 about 1% of the world's population, with 1.6 to
8 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, healthcare reimbursement and research funding; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that Rheumatoid arthritis
16 patients are twice as likely to experience silent heart attacks
17 and sudden cardiac deaths, and that the lifetime risk of the
18 disease is 3.6% for women and 1.7% for men; and

1 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid Awareness Day comes at the start of Heart
2 Disease Awareness month, underscoring the impact Rheumatoid
3 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

4 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation selected February
5 2, 2014, as their inaugural Rheumatoid Awareness Day in order to
6 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
8 February 2, 2014, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.