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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 927 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, GODSHALL, BISHOP, COHEN, V. BROWN,  
BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, BIZZARRO, McNEILL, BROWNLEE, SONNEY,  
VEREB, HENNESSEY, DIGIROLAMO, FLYNN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,  
DONATUCCI, LUCAS, RAPP, DAVIS, MICOZZIE, MURT, O'BRIEN, ROSS,  
SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, YOUNGBLOOD, MIRABITO, MILLARD,  
SABATINA, GRELL, FRANKEL, MAHONEY, FARINA, GINGRICH, SCHLEGEL  
CULVER, MARSICO, EVERETT, O'NEILL, THOMAS, PAYNE, FREEMAN,  
PASHINSKI, CLYMER, KIRKLAND AND MAJOR, JUNE 27, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 27, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing July 2014 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sarcoma is a cancer of connective tissues, such as  
4 nerves, muscles, joints, fat, bones and blood vessels, and it  
5 can arise anywhere in the body; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, more  
7 than 13,000 new cases of soft tissue and bone sarcoma are  
8 diagnosed each year in the United States, and approximately  
9 4,400 and 1,400 people die from soft tissue and bone sarcoma,  
10 respectively, each year; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, the  
12 five-year relative survival rate for bone and soft tissue  
13 sarcoma is approximately 66%; and

14 WHEREAS, There are two main types of sarcoma, bone sarcomas

1 and soft tissue sarcomas which are further subclassified based  
2 on the type of presumed cell of origin found in the tumor; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 50 subtypes of sarcomas have been  
4 identified; and

5 WHEREAS, Sarcomas can develop in children and adults, and  
6 slightly more men than women develop soft tissue sarcoma; and

7 WHEREAS, One percent of the cancers diagnosed in adults and  
8 15% of cancers diagnosed in children each year are sarcomas; and

9 WHEREAS, Because sarcomas are more common in adolescents and  
10 young adults than most other cancers, the number of years of  
11 life lost to sarcomas is substantial, despite their relatively  
12 low incidence; and

13 WHEREAS, Sarcomas can be difficult to distinguish from other  
14 malignancies when they are found within organs, thus their  
15 incident is probably underestimated; and

16 WHEREAS, Early on, soft tissue sarcoma rarely causes any  
17 symptoms, and because soft tissue is very elastic, the tumors  
18 can grow quite large before they are felt; and

19 WHEREAS, As the tumor grows and begins to press against the  
20 nerves and muscles, pain and soreness can occur; and

21 WHEREAS, No modifiable risk factors for sarcoma have been  
22 identified; and

23 WHEREAS, It is not clear why some people develop sarcoma,  
24 however, researchers have been able to identify some common  
25 characteristics in groups with a high rate of soft tissue  
26 sarcoma; and

27 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that people exposed to  
28 phenoxyacetic acid in herbicides and clorphenols in wood  
29 preservative have increased risk of soft tissue sarcoma; and

30 WHEREAS, The standard treatments for soft tissue sarcoma

1 include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy; and

2 WHEREAS, Patients with bone sarcoma and uterine sarcoma may  
3 receive samarium and hormone therapy, respectively; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute recognizes that  
5 sarcoma is often misdiagnosed and under-reported; and

6 WHEREAS, For this reason, the National Cancer Institute, the  
7 Sarcoma Alliance, the Sarcoma Foundation of America and other  
8 organizations are working to promote sarcoma awareness and  
9 support programs to improve education, knowledge, research and  
10 treatment of the condition; and

11 WHEREAS, Continued coordination and cooperation among  
12 researchers, families and the public is needed to improve  
13 prognoses for people who battle sarcoma; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize July  
15 2014 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and  
16 urge the residents of this Commonwealth to support the efforts,  
17 programs, services and organizations that work to enhance  
18 research and awareness of sarcoma.