

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 984 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, READSHAW, NEILSON, TOOHL,  
HICKERNELL, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY, FEE, MEHAFFIE, RYAN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, EVERETT, OBERLANDER, M. QUINN,  
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, R. BROWN, PICKETT, MARSICO, KINSEY,  
WARD, WATSON AND GILLEN, JUNE 18, 2018

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 18, 2018

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2018 as "Juvenile Idiopathic  
2 Arthritis Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is an auto-  
4 inflammatory disease of an unknown origin and is the most common  
5 type of arthritis in children; and

6 WHEREAS, An auto-inflammatory disease causes the immune  
7 system to become overactive even when there is no infection or  
8 illness to fight or mistakenly attack healthy cells and tissues;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There is no evidence as to what causes JIA and no  
11 links have been found that foods, toxins, allergies or the lack  
12 of vitamins play a role in developing the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Current research indicates that there is a genetic  
14 predisposition to JIA; and

15 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that a trigger, like a virus,  
16 can start JIA in a child with the genetic tendency; and

1       WHEREAS, Systemic JIA, oligoarticular JIA, polyarticular JIA,  
2 juvenile psoriatic arthritis, enthesitis-related JIA and  
3 undifferentiated arthritis are the six subtypes of JIA; and

4       WHEREAS, Nearly 300,000 children in the United States have  
5 some form of arthritis; and

6       WHEREAS, Typical symptoms of arthritis include limping,  
7 stiffness when awakening, reluctance to use an arm or leg,  
8 reduced activity level, persistent fever, joint swelling and  
9 difficulty with fine motor skills; and

10       WHEREAS, Most children with arthritis can expect to live  
11 normal lives and some even have their arthritis go into  
12 remission; and

13       WHEREAS, There is a small number of specialists who treat  
14 JIA, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a leader in  
15 the field; and

16       WHEREAS, According to the American College of Rheumatology,  
17 the best care for a child with JIA is provided by a pediatric  
18 rheumatology team that has extensive experience and can diagnose  
19 and manage the complex needs of the child; and

20       WHEREAS, A pediatric rheumatology team may consist of a  
21 pediatric rheumatologist, a physical therapist, an occupational  
22 therapist, a social worker and a nurse specialist who coordinate  
23 care with other health professionals and school and community  
24 officials; and

25       WHEREAS, The overall treatment goal for a child with JIA is  
26 to control the symptoms, prevent joint damage and maintain  
27 function; and

28       WHEREAS, Medications, including steroids, disease-modifying  
29 drugs and biologics along with physical and occupational therapy  
30 are used to treat JIA; and

1       WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers of children with JIA should  
2 be familiar with section 794 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
3 (Public Law 93-112, 29 U.S.C. § 794), which may provide for  
4 special accommodations at school; and

5       WHEREAS, Children with JIA may be eligible for assistance  
6 through services provided by State agencies; therefore be it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
8 month of July 2018 as "Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Month" in  
9 Pennsylvania.