

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 428 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, BAKER, TOOHL, DIGIROLAMO, DeLUCA,
HENNESSEY, WATSON, R. BROWN, DUSH, DAVIS, SONNEY, FREEMAN,
WARD, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, SCHWEYER, BOBACK, SCHLOSSBERG,
BULLOCK, MILLARD, ROEBUCK, BIZZARRO, GOODMAN, DEASY,
V. BROWN, STURLA, FITZGERALD, ROZZI, EVERETT, MURT, KORTZ,
NEILSON, PYLE, PASHINSKI, SAYLOR AND GILLEN, JUNE 28, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 28, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2017 as "National Sarcoma
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urging the residents of
3 this Commonwealth to support the efforts, programs, services
4 and organizations that work to enhance research and awareness
5 of sarcoma.

6 WHEREAS, Sarcoma is a rare cancer that develops in the
7 connective tissues, such as nerves, muscles, joints, fat, bones
8 and blood vessels; and

9 WHEREAS, Sarcomas can arise anywhere in the body; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS, There are two main types of sarcomas, bone sarcoma
2 and soft tissue sarcoma, which are further subclassified based
3 on the type of presumed cell of origin found in the tumor; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, One percent of the cancers diagnosed in adults and
9 15% of cancers diagnosed in children each year are sarcomas; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Given that sarcomas can be difficult to distinguish
15 from other malignancies when they are found within organs,
16 sarcoma incidence is probably underestimated; and

17 WHEREAS, At the onset, soft tissue sarcoma rarely causes any
18 symptoms, and because soft tissue is very elastic, the tumors
19 can grow quite large before being detected; and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that individuals exposed to
29 phenoxyacetic acid found in herbicides and chlorophenols found
30 in wood preservative have an increased risk of soft tissue

1 sarcoma; and

2 WHEREAS, The standard treatments for soft tissue sarcoma
3 include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy; and

4 WHEREAS, Patients with bone sarcoma and uterine sarcoma may
5 receive samarium and hormone therapy, respectively; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute recognizes that
7 sarcoma is often misdiagnosed and underreported; and

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

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

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
17 month of July 2017 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month" in
18 Pennsylvania and urge the residents of this Commonwealth to
19 support the efforts, programs, services and organizations that
20 work to enhance research and awareness of sarcoma.