

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 898 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, M. QUINN,
BURNS, NEILSON, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG,
CALTAGIRONE, MURT, WARD, DRISCOLL, MARSICO, TOOHL, MILLARD,
BRADFORD AND D. COSTA, MAY 3, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 3, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2018 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that is
4 found throughout all geographic locations and socioeconomic
5 groups and has infected between 50% and 80% of adults in the
6 United States who have reached 40 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, CMV belongs to the same group of viruses that
8 includes chickenpox, shingles, mononucleosis and herpes simplex
9 viruses and remains with a person for life once infected; and

10 WHEREAS, Most healthy adults and children who are infected
11 with CMV will have few, if any, signs or symptoms and often go
12 undiagnosed; and

13 WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 60% of women are
14 at risk for contracting CMV during pregnancy, with the highest
15 risk among pregnant women who already have young children or who
16 work with young children; and

WHEREAS, Due to its prevalence, CMV is the virus most frequently transmitted by an infected mother to a child before or during birth; and

WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 1 in every 200 children is born with congenital CMV, causing an estimated 400 deaths and leaving approximately 6,000 children with permanent disabilities such as hearing or vision loss or intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, More children are adversely affected by congenital CMV than by several better-known childhood diseases or syndromes such as Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome and spina bifida; and

WHEREAS, Congenital CMV infection is more common than the 34 combined metabolic and endocrine disorders on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel for newborns; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, only 9% of women have heard of CMV, compared with 97% who have heard of Down syndrome and 98% who have heard of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Every woman of childbearing age should know her CMV status by asking her doctor for a CMV blood test; and

WHEREAS, To prevent CMV, women should avoid saliva and other bodily fluids of children under six years of age and practice frequent hand washing with soap and water; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of June 2018 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all residents to work within their communities to increase awareness about the risk of contracting cytomegalovirus and how to take steps to prevent the spread of CMV, especially among pregnant

1 women.