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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 42 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, BURNS, BIZZARRO, KORTZ, SCHLOSSBERG,  
CALTAGIRONE, DONATUCCI, LONGIETTI, RYAN, READSHAW, SONNEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, KINSEY, MACKENZIE, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD, MEHAFFIE,  
BERNSTINE, PICKETT, McNEILL, PASHINSKI, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD,  
B. MILLER, NEILSON, FREEMAN, HEFFLEY, BOBACK AND DEASY,  
JANUARY 24, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 24, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2019, 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 approximately 1% of the world's population,  
8 with more than 1.3 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, health care reimbursement and research funding; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that rheumatoid arthritis

1 patients have a 50% higher risk of heart attack, twice the risk  
2 of heart failure and an increase in peripheral vascular disease  
3 than people who do not have rheumatoid arthritis; and

4 WHEREAS, The lifetime risk of developing the disease is 3.6%  
5 for women and 1.7% for men; and

6 WHEREAS, "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" comes at the start of  
7 "American Heart Month," underscoring the impact rheumatoid  
8 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes  
10 February 2, 2019, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to  
11 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
13 February 2, 2019, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.