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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 356 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO,  
HENNESSEY, THOMAS, DUSH, SONNEY, RYAN, KINSEY, RABB, FREEMAN,  
TOOHIL, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, R. BROWN, MACKENZIE, GILLESPIE,  
MILLARD, NEILSON, LONGIETTI, BURNS, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG,  
STURLA, McNEILL, MARSICO, RAVENSTAHL, V. BROWN AND MURT,  
MAY 24, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 24, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2017 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and  
2 May 10, 2017, as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every day an estimated 65,000 Pennsylvanians, 1.5  
4 million Americans and 5 million individuals worldwide struggle  
5 with the debilitating consequences of lupus, a potentially fatal  
6 autoimmune disease that can damage any part of a lupus patient's  
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, In an autoimmune disease such as lupus, the immune  
9 system effectively loses its way, and, instead of warding off  
10 foreign invaders, including viruses and bacteria, the immune  
11 system attacks healthy cells, causing inflammation and pain; and

12 WHEREAS, Lupus has no cure, no known cause and can lead to  
13 permanent damage; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the current treatment and available  
15 medications, many lupus patients have symptoms that cannot be

1 managed well enough for patients to lead normal lives, complete  
2 their education and maintain employment; and

3 WHEREAS, Nine out of 10 individuals with lupus are women, and  
4 80% of new cases are diagnosed among women between 15 and 44  
5 years of age, with the majority of new cases seen in women in  
6 their late teens and early 20s; and

7 WHEREAS, Individuals of any age or gender can develop lupus;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Lupus was identified as a disease in 1872, but it is  
10 an underrecognized public health problem that attracts rare  
11 attention and funding for research for a cure; and

12 WHEREAS, Lupus is often referred to as "the disease that  
13 fools," due to the patient's unawareness of its presence for  
14 extended periods of time; and

15 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-  
16 State Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, two  
17 nonprofit volunteer health organizations with a history of  
18 service since the early 1970s, provide supportive services to  
19 the victims of lupus, fund medical research into the disease's  
20 causes and possible treatments and educate the public concerning  
21 the realities of lupus; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
23 month of May 2017 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and May 10, 2017,  
24 as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania so that more attention and  
25 awareness may be given to this disease.