

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 394 Session of  
1998

INTRODUCED BY O'BRIEN, HASAY, McNAUGHTON, GEORGE, NAILOR,  
HERSHEY, GRUPPO, ORIE, BAKER, WALKO, FICHTER, EGOLF, COY,  
L. I. COHEN, RUBLEY, PIPPY, McGILL, DALLY, BELARDI, ARGALL,  
B. SMITH, ITKIN, KENNEY, CORRIGAN, ROSS, READSHAW, OLASZ,  
MAITLAND, ARMSTRONG, DONATUCCI, MILLER, MANDERINO, WOGAN,  
STABACK, DeWEESE, TIGUE, GODSHALL, GIGLIOTTI, CAPPABIANCA,  
LEDERER, PESCI, MELIO, DIGIROLAMO, CORPORA, BROWNE, SATHER,  
BARD, HERMAN, TRELLO, BELFANTI, LAUGHLIN, JAROLIN,  
WASHINGTON, BROWN, KIRKLAND, MICOZZIE, GEIST, SANTONI,  
McCALL, SCHRODER, HALUSKA, BENNINGHOFF, HORSEY, SHANER,  
HARHART, FAIRCHILD, JOSEPHS, E. Z. TAYLOR, YOUNGBLOOD,  
SEYFERT, CIVERA, BOSCOLA, BEBKO-JONES, JAMES, HESS, RAMOS,  
ROBERTS, CLARK AND ROHRER, MARCH 25, 1998

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 25, 1998

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 1998 as "Hepatitis Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis C has been classified as the  
4 silent killer, where no recognizable signs or symptoms occur  
5 until severe liver damage has occurred; and

6 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis C has been characterized by the  
7 World Health Organization as a disease of primary concern to  
8 humanity; and

9 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis C currently infects approximately  
10 4.5 million Americans and there are 30,000 new infections each  
11 year in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, This disease is considered such a public health

1 threat that the National Institutes of Health convened an  
2 international conference of health experts in March 1997 to  
3 issue guidelines for diagnosis, control and treatment of  
4 hepatitis C; and

5 WHEREAS, The consequences of the hepatitis C virus cost \$7.3  
6 million per 100,000 people; and

7 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania the hepatitis C virus is estimated  
8 to have infected 212,400 citizens, many of whom do not know they  
9 have been infected with a chronic disease because the disease is  
10 asymptomatic; and

11 WHEREAS, As many as 1 to 1.25 million people are carriers of  
12 the hepatitis B virus, with 200,000 to 300,000 infections  
13 occurring annually; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human  
15 Services has launched a comprehensive plan to address this  
16 significant public health problem, beginning with the  
17 identification and notification of the hundreds of thousands of  
18 persons inadvertently exposed to hepatitis C through blood  
19 transfusion; and

20 WHEREAS, In the absence of a vaccine, emphasis must be placed  
21 on other means of disease prevention, including education of  
22 health care workers and the general public; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
24 month of April 1998 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" in  
25 Pennsylvania and urge public awareness on behalf of the  
26 Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Health and  
27 public health departments through increased public education  
28 during this month.