
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 721 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, WATSON, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, FRANKEL, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHART, HARPER, HASAY, HERSHEY, HESS, M. KELLER, KENNEY, KOTIK, LEDERER, LEH, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MCGILL, MCILHATTAN, MELIO, MILLARD, S. MILLER, MUSTIO, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PERZEL, PETRI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, QUIGLEY, RAMALEY, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SEMMEL, SHANER, SIPTROTH, B. SMITH, SONNEY, STABACK, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 24, 2006

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 24, 2006

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2006 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis is a liver disease caused by one of five
4 forms of the hepatitis virus; and

5 WHEREAS, Hepatitis infects individuals of all ages, ethnic
6 groups and socioeconomic classes in urban and rural areas of
7 this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The hepatitis viruses, designated "A," "B," "C," "D"
9 and "E," cause inflammation of the liver and are often
10 asymptomatic; and

1 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A is contracted primarily through
2 contaminated food or water; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2003 a hepatitis A outbreak involving customers
4 of a Beaver County restaurant caused more than 650 primary and
5 secondary cases; and

6 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the leading reason for liver
7 transplantation and now exceeds HIV/AIDS by a 5 to 1 ratio; and

8 WHEREAS, In the last five years on average, two people were
9 diagnosed with hepatitis-related liver disease and two others
10 died each day from liver cancer; and

11 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C and hepatitis B have been characterized
12 by the World Health Organization as diseases of primary concern
13 for humanity; and

14 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B can easily be prevented through
15 awareness and the knowledge that a vaccine is available for this
16 virus; and

17 WHEREAS, An estimated 280,000 Pennsylvania residents are
18 infected with hepatitis C and 75% to 85% of these persons are
19 chronically infected; and

20 WHEREAS, In the absence of a vaccine for hepatitis C,
21 emphasis must be placed on other means of disease prevention,
22 including education of health care workers, emergency services
23 workers, veterans and the general public; and

24 WHEREAS, Chronic viral hepatitis has been a disease with
25 little or no public awareness since it is largely asymptomatic
26 until irreversible liver damage has occurred; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 month of May 2006 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" in
29 Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage State

1 agencies, health care providers and the residents of this
2 Commonwealth to learn and educate others about the causes,
3 symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis.