

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 776 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROOKS, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CIVERA, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHART, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MIRABITO, MURT, OBERLANDER, D. O'BRIEN, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SEIP, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, WATERS, WATSON, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 26, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 26, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2010 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 as A, B, C, D and
9 E, cause infections which are generally asymptomatic but which
10 lead to liver inflammation; and

11 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A is contracted primarily through
12 contaminated food or water; and

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

3 WHEREAS, On average, two people are diagnosed with hepatitis-
4 related liver disease and two people die from liver cancer each
5 day in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has characterized
7 hepatitis B and hepatitis C as diseases of primary concern for
8 humanity; and

9 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A and hepatitis B can easily be prevented
10 through awareness of transmission routes and through available
11 vaccines; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 280,000 residents of this Commonwealth
13 are infected with hepatitis C, and 75% to 85% of these persons
14 are chronically infected; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Chronic viral hepatitis is a disease with little or
20 no public awareness since it is largely asymptomatic until
21 irreversible liver damage has occurred; and

22 WHEREAS, In the past year, five new hepatitis screening sites
23 have opened in this Commonwealth; and

24 WHEREAS, There remains a need for more hepatitis screening
25 and testing sites in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 month of May 2010 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" in
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage State
30 agencies, health care providers and residents of this

1 Commonwealth to learn and educate others about the causes,
2 symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis, with prevention
3 being the primary focus among younger Pennsylvanians; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage State
6 agencies and health care providers to integrate hepatitis
7 services with existing services that target similar risks
8 groups, such as HIV and AIDS targeted populations, and to
9 connect persons with hepatitis with appropriate care using the
10 Commonwealth's resource directory.