

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 654 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MAHONEY, GIBBONS, READSHAW, D. COSTA,  
KOTIK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, ADOLPH, CUTLER, BAKER, MILLARD,  
HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, KINSEY,  
MARSICO, FREEMAN, HEFFLEY, KIM, SCHLOSSBERG, KIRKLAND, WARD,  
MURT, MACKENZIE, NEILSON, THOMAS, ROZZI, WHEELAND, ROSS,  
SAYLOR, LONGIETTI, DONATUCCI, PAYNE, EVERETT, LEWIS,  
YOUNGBLOOD, SCHWEYER, GOODMAN, CRUZ, FARINA, CONKLIN,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, MILNE AND WATSON, JANUARY 25, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 25, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2016, 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 about 1% of the world's population, with  
8 approximately 1.5 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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid Awareness Day comes at the start of Heart  
8 Disease Awareness month, underscoring the impact rheumatoid  
9 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes  
11 February 2, 2016, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to  
12 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
14 February 2, 2016, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.