

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 83

Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, TEPLITZ, HAYWOOD, VULAKOVICH,  
COSTA, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, SCAVELLO,  
AUMENT, MENSCH, SMITH AND WHITE, APRIL 20, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 20, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Crohn's Disease and  
2 Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic  
4 diseases that cause inflammation of the digestive and  
5 gastrointestinal tract; and

6 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are the two  
7 main disease categories that belong to a larger group of  
8 illnesses called inflammatory bowel disease, also known as IBD;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1932, Dr. Burrill Crohn and two colleagues  
11 published a landmark paper describing the features of what is  
12 known today as Crohn's disease; and

13 WHEREAS, The causes of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis  
14 are unknown; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 1.4 million Americans suffer from Crohn's  
16 disease and ulcerative colitis; and

17 WHEREAS, Ten percent of persons affected by Crohn's disease

1 and ulcerative colitis are children under 18 years of age; and

2 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect people  
3 of all ages, but they are primarily diseases of adolescents and  
4 young adults, affecting mainly persons between 15 and 35 years  
5 of age; and

6 WHEREAS, The diseases affect males and females equally; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis  
8 include abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, loss of appetite and  
9 rectal bleeding; and

10 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Crohn's disease and  
11 ulcerative colitis, only medication to suppress inflammation;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Two-thirds of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis  
14 sufferers must have surgery at some point in their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, also  
16 known as the CCFA, works diligently to research the diseases,  
17 provide information and aid to patients and increase national  
18 awareness of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and  
20 Kidney Diseases also conducts and supports research into many  
21 kinds of digestive disorders, including Crohn's disease; and

22 WHEREAS, "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness  
23 Month" increases public awareness of Crohn's disease and  
24 ulcerative colitis patients' circumstances, acknowledges the  
25 impact of the diseases on patients and families and recognizes  
26 research for treatment and a cure for Crohn's disease and  
27 ulcerative colitis; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of May 2015 as  
29 "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in  
30 Pennsylvania and urge all Pennsylvanians to learn about these

1 diseases.