
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 354 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, MARSICO, KINSEY,
MILLARD, THOMAS, BIZZARRO, TOOHIL, D. COSTA, WARD,
SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, PASHINSKI, HENNESSEY,
READSHAW, V. BROWN, DRISCOLL AND NEILSON, MAY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 23, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2017 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that is
4 found universally throughout all geographic locations and
5 socioeconomic groups and has infected between 50% and 80% of
6 adults in the United States who have reached 40 years of age;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, CMV belongs to the same group of viruses that
9 include chickenpox, shingles, mononucleosis and herpes simplex
10 viruses and remains with a person for life once infected; and

11 WHEREAS, Most healthy adults and children who are infected
12 with CMV will have few, if any, signs or symptoms and CMV often
13 goes undiagnosed; and

14 WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 60% of women are
15 at risk for contracting CMV during pregnancy, with the highest
16 risk being among pregnant women who already have young children
17 or who work with young children; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to its prevalence, CMV is the virus most
2 frequently transmitted by an infected mother to a child before
3 or during birth; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 1 in
5 150, or 30,000, children are born with congenital CMV, causing
6 an estimated 400 deaths and leaving approximately 5,000 children
7 with permanent disabilities, including hearing or vision loss or
8 intellectual disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, More children are adversely affected by congenital
10 CMV than by several better-known childhood diseases or syndromes
11 such as Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome and spina bifida;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Congenital CMV is more common than the 34 combined
14 metabolic and endocrine disorders on the Recommended Uniform
15 Screening Panel for newborns; and

16 WHEREAS, In the United States, only 9% of women have heard of
17 CMV, compared with 97% who have heard of Down syndrome and 98%
18 who have heard of HIV/AIDS; and

19 WHEREAS, Every woman of childbearing age should know her CMV
20 status by asking her doctor for a CMV blood test; and

21 WHEREAS, To prevent CMV, women should avoid saliva and other
22 bodily fluids of children under 6 years of age and practice
23 frequent hand washing with soap and water; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of June 2017 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania and encourage all residents to work within their
27 communities to increase awareness of the risks of CMV and how to
28 take steps to prevent the spread of this disease especially
29 among pregnant women.