
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 763 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, BIZZARRO, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY,
READSHAW, MURT, KIM, RYAN, MILLARD, KORTZ, BROWN, LONGIETTI,
BURNS, FREEMAN, STRUZZI, SCHMITT, ROZZI, PICKETT, MEHAFFIE,
NEILSON AND DeLUCA, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2020 as "Juvenile Idiopathic
2 Arthritis Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is an
4 autoinflammatory disease of an unknown origin and the most
5 common type of arthritis in children; and

6 WHEREAS, An autoinflammatory disease causes the immune system
7 to become overactive even when there is no infection or illness
8 to fight or mistakenly attack healthy cells and tissues; and

9 WHEREAS, There is no evidence as to what causes JIA and no
10 links have been found that foods, toxins, allergies or the lack
11 of vitamins play a role in developing the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Current research indicates that there is a genetic
13 predisposition to JIA; and

14 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that a trigger, such as a virus,
15 can initiate JIA in a child who has the genetic tendency; and

16 WHEREAS, Systemic JIA, oligoarticular JIA, polyarticular JIA,
17 juvenile psoriatic arthritis, enthesitis-related JIA and

1 undifferentiated arthritis are the six subtypes of JIA; and

2 WHEREAS, Nearly 300,000 children in the United States have
3 some form of arthritis; and

4 WHEREAS, Typical symptoms of arthritis include limping,
5 stiffness when awakening, reluctance to use an arm or leg,
6 reduced activity level, persistent fever, joint swelling and
7 difficulty with fine motor skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Most children with arthritis can expect to live
9 normal lives and some even have their arthritis go into
10 remission; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a small number of specialists who treat
12 JIA, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a leader in
13 the field; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the American College of Rheumatology,
15 the best care for a child who has JIA is provided by a pediatric
16 rheumatology team that has extensive experience and can diagnose
17 and manage their complex needs; and

18 WHEREAS, A pediatric rheumatology team may consist of a
19 pediatric rheumatologist, a physical therapist, an occupational
20 therapist, a social worker and a nurse specialist who coordinate
21 care with other health professionals and school and community
22 officials; and

23 WHEREAS, The overall treatment goal for a child who has JIA
24 is to control the symptoms, prevent joint damage and maintain
25 function; and

26 WHEREAS, Medications, including steroids, disease-modifying
27 drugs and biologics along with physical and occupational therapy
28 are used to treat JIA; and

29 WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers of children who have JIA
30 should be familiar with section 794 of the Rehabilitation Act of

1 1973 (Public Law 93-112, 29 U.S.C. § 794), which may provide for
2 special accommodations at school; and

3 WHEREAS, Children who have JIA may be eligible for assistance
4 through services provided by State agencies; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 month of July 2020 as "Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Month" in
7 Pennsylvania.