
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 971 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD, WEBSTER,
MURT, HOHENSTEIN, RYAN, ROTHMAN, HENNESSEY, GREEN, BURNS,
LONGIETTI, DALEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KIRKLAND, DONATUCCI,
GALLOWAY, McCLINTON, NEILSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND ROZZI,
AUGUST 25, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 25, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 29, 2020, as "World Scleroderma Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Scleroderma is a group of rare autoimmune diseases
4 that involve the hardening and tightening of skin and connective
5 tissues; and

6 WHEREAS, Scleroderma affects more women than men and most
7 commonly occurs between the ages of 30 and 50; and

8 WHEREAS, There are various types of scleroderma, some of
9 which harm the skin, while other variations cause damage to
10 structures beyond the skin such as blood vessels, internal
11 organs and the digestive tract; and

12 WHEREAS, Scleroderma affecting the skin causes a hardening
13 and tightening of patches, which may be shaped like ovals or
14 straight lines, or cover wide areas of the trunk and limbs; and

15 WHEREAS, The number, location and size of the patches vary by
16 type of scleroderma; and

1 WHEREAS, Skin can appear shiny because it is so tight and
2 movement of the affected area may be restricted; and

3 WHEREAS, One of the earliest signs of systemic scleroderma is
4 Raynaud's disease which causes the small blood vessels in a
5 person's fingers and toes to contract in response to cold
6 temperatures or emotional distress and causes pain, numbness or
7 a change in color; and

8 WHEREAS, Scleroderma can cause a variety of digestive
9 symptoms, depending on which part of the digestive tract is
10 affected; and

11 WHEREAS, Some people who have scleroderma may also have
12 problems absorbing nutrients if their intestinal muscles are not
13 properly functioning; and

14 WHEREAS, Scleroderma can also affect the function of the
15 heart, lungs or kidneys to varying degrees; and

16 WHEREAS, Scleroderma results from an overproduction and
17 accumulation of collagen in body tissues, which is conjectured
18 to be caused by a combination of factors, including immune
19 system problems, genetics and environmental triggers; and

20 WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 300,000 Americans
21 have scleroderma, a third of these individuals have systemic
22 scleroderma; and

23 WHEREAS, Several Pennsylvania university hospitals have
24 devoted centers to scleroderma research programs, including the
25 University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson University and the
26 University of Pittsburgh; and

27 WHEREAS, While there is no cure for scleroderma, there are
28 many treatment and management methods which may differ from
29 patient to patient; and

30 WHEREAS, Physicians may prescribe medications to treat or

1 slow skin changes, dilate blood vessels, suppress the immune
2 system, reduce digestive symptoms, prevent infections and
3 relieve pain; and

4 WHEREAS, Physical and occupational therapists can provide
5 pain management and therapies to improve strength and mobility
6 in scleroderma patients as treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, The last and final resort for severe scleroderma
8 patients is surgery which is specifically used for amputation or
9 lung transplants; and

10 WHEREAS, In some cases, the skin problems associated with
11 scleroderma fade away on their own in two to five years, while
12 scleroderma that impacts internal organs tends to worsen over
13 time; and

14 WHEREAS, It is vitally important for all Pennsylvanians to be
15 aware of the signs, symptoms, educational resources and
16 treatment options for scleroderma; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize June
18 29, 2020, as "World Scleroderma Day" in Pennsylvania.