

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 26 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, JANUARY 28, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 28, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of December 2009 as "Rheumatoid Arthritis
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that
4 causes chronic inflammation in the lining of the joints and can
5 affect other body parts such as the eyes, mouth and lungs; and

6 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis is the most serious and
7 disabling form of arthritis; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Arthritis Foundation, approximately
9 1.3 million Americans have rheumatoid arthritis, and 70% of
10 those afflicted with the disease are women; and

11 WHEREAS, While the onset of rheumatoid arthritis can occur
12 between 30 and 50 years of age, the disease also affects
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid
15 arthritis is critical for affected persons to live a productive
16 life; and

17 WHEREAS, While there is no known cure, treating rheumatoid
18 arthritis optimally involves a combination of patient education,

1 rest, joint-strengthening exercises, medications and self-
2 management techniques to reduce joint inflammation and pain, as
3 well as treatment to prevent joint destruction and deformity;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
6 month of December 2009 as "Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Month"
7 in Pennsylvania and urge the residents of this Commonwealth to
8 be aware of the seriousness of this disease and seek appropriate
9 treatment to minimize its impact on their lives.