
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 846 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON, WHEATLEY, ROSS, ROCK, KORTZ, D. COSTA,
MELIO, McCALL, GINGRICH, SOLOBAY, SCAVELLO, REICHLEY,
KILLION, CONKLIN, BRADFORD, MILLARD, ROHRER, CLYMER, TRUE,
O'NEILL, MURT, K. SMITH, MURPHY, GEIST, BAKER, BEYER, BISHOP,
BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT,
FLECK, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GRELL, HELM, GRUCELA,
MARKOSEK, MUSTIO, PALLONE, READSHAW, SANTONI, SWANGER, VEREB,
VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, JUNE 14, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE
14, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 19, 2010, as "Sickle Cell Disease Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia affects millions of people
4 throughout the world. While it is more common in people whose
5 ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, cases have been reported
6 in Mediterranean countries as in well as the Middle East; and

7 WHEREAS, Round, red blood cells are needed to transport
8 oxygen to all parts of the body while removing carbon dioxide
9 from other tissues to the lungs where it can be exhaled; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1910, Dr. James B. Herrick released a report on
11 his discovery of thin, sickle-shaped and crescent-shaped red
12 blood cells after viewing a blood smear of a young man from the
13 West Indies whose symptoms included shortness of breath,
14 palpitations and anemia. This report, entitled "Peculiar

1 Elongated and Sickle-shaped Red Blood Corpuscles in a Case of
2 Severe Anemia," was the first account in medical literature
3 describing the disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder
5 that, if left untreated, can cause serious health problems. Red
6 blood cells take on a sickle shape which can significantly
7 impede their ability to flow through blood vessels. The reduced
8 blood flow may injure lung tissue in the short term. Over a
9 longer period of time, the harm is more extensive, compromising
10 vital organs such as the liver, spleen and kidneys; and

11 WHEREAS, Sickle cell anemia generally occurs in approximately
12 one in 500 African-American births, and one in 900 Hispanic-
13 American births, afflicting approximately 72,000 persons in the
14 United States, according to the American Sickle Cell Anemia
15 Association; and

16 WHEREAS, There are approximately two million Americans who
17 carry the sickle cell trait and are generally healthy,
18 exhibiting few symptoms. However, this trait occurs in 1 in 12
19 African Americans and 1 in 16 Hispanic Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, There is currently no universal cure for sickle cell
21 anemia but research is working to identify and develop effective
22 treatments; and

23 WHEREAS, A public that is informed and educated about sickle
24 cell anemia can improve the chances for early diagnosis and
25 treatment of this disease; and

26 WHEREAS, The United Nations has declared June 19th as "World
27 Sickle Cell Day"; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
29 19, 2010, as "Sickle Cell Disease Day" in Pennsylvania.