

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 762 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY PYLE, BAKER, BEAR, BRENNAN, V. BROWN, CAUSER, DIGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GABLER, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARKINS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, PASHINSKI, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, SABATINA, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, M. SMITH, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TOOHIL, VEREB AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 11, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE 11, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2012 as "Congenital
2 Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is a common virus that is
4 found universally throughout all geographic locations and
5 socioeconomic groups and has infected between 50% and 85% of
6 adults in the United States who have reached 40 years of age;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Most healthy adults and children who are infected
9 with CMV will have few, if any, signs or symptoms; and

10 WHEREAS, CMV is the virus most frequently transmitted to a
11 developing child before birth; and

12 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 30,000
13 children are born with congenital CMV, causing an estimated 400
14 deaths and leaving approximately 8,000 children with permanent

1 disabilities such as hearing or vision loss or mental
2 retardation; and

3 WHEREAS, More children are adversely affected by congenital
4 CMV than by several better-known childhood diseases or syndromes
5 such as Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome and spina bifida;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In the United States, about 50% to 60% of women are
8 at risk for contracting CMV infection during pregnancy, and an
9 infected woman is at high risk of passing the virus to her
10 developing child, causing potential birth defects; and

11 WHEREAS, In a recent survey of women in the United States,
12 only 14% had heard of CMV, compared with 97% who had heard of
13 Down syndrome and 98% who had heard of HIV/AIDS; and

14 WHEREAS, To prevent CMV, women should practice frequent hand
15 washing with soap and water after contact with diapers or oral
16 secretions of babies and small children; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
18 month of June 2012 as "Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
19 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania, and encourage all citizens to
20 work within their communities to increase awareness of the risks
21 of CMV and how to take steps to prevent the spread of this
22 disease, especially among pregnant women.