

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 708 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, PAYNE, V. BROWN, BAKER, FABRIZIO, BISHOP, COHEN, MIRABITO, KORTZ, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY, BOBACK, DIGIROLAMO, KILLION, O'NEILL, MICOZZIE, LONGIETTI, MUSTIO, VEREB, DAVIS, THOMAS, SONNEY, PARKER, STERN, BROWNLEE, PICKETT, HEFFLEY, MILLARD, KINSEY, LUCAS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, GINGRICH, P. DALEY, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG, ROSS, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM, MAHONEY, MARSICO, D. COSTA, BENNINGHOFF, DEASY, RAVENSTAHL, MAJOR, FREEMAN, ROEBUCK, KAVULICH, FLECK, SWANGER, ROCK, GOODMAN, R. BROWN AND MENTZER, MARCH 17, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2014 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and
2 May 10, 2014, as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every day an estimated 65,000 Pennsylvanians, 1.5
4 million Americans and five million people worldwide struggle
5 with the debilitating consequences of lupus, a potentially fatal
6 autoimmune disease that can damage any part of a lupus patient's
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune
9 system effectively loses its way, and, instead of warding off
10 foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria, the immune system
11 attacks healthy cells, causing inflammation and pain and leading
12 to permanent damage; and

13 WHEREAS, Lupus has no cure and no known cause, and, despite
14 the current treatment and available medications, many lupus

1 patients have symptoms that cannot be managed well enough for
2 patients to lead normal lives, complete their education and
3 maintain employment; and

4 WHEREAS, Nine out of ten people with lupus are women, and 80%
5 of new cases are diagnosed among women between 15 and 44 years
6 of age, with the majority of new cases seen in women in their
7 late teens and early 20s; and

8 WHEREAS, Although the disease is most frequently seen in
9 those patients, individuals of any age or gender can develop
10 lupus; and

11 WHEREAS, Lupus was identified as a disease in 1872, but it is
12 an underrecognized public health problem that attracts rare
13 attention and funding for research for a cure; and

14 WHEREAS, Lupus is often referred to as "the disease that
15 fools," due to the patient's unawareness of its presence for
16 extended periods of time; and

17 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-
18 State Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, two
19 nonprofit volunteer health organizations with a history of
20 service since the early 1970s, provide supportive services to
21 the victims of lupus, fund medical research into the disease's
22 causes and possible treatments and educate the public concerning
23 the realities of lupus; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 month of May 2014 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and May 10, 2014,
26 as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania so that more attention and
27 awareness may be given to the disease.