

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 39 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, D. COSTA, SCHWEYER, BURNS, KOTIK, READSHAW, V. BROWN, BAKER, FREEMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KIRKLAND, CALTAGIRONE, BISHOP, KIM, BROWNLEE, FRANKEL, PICKETT, VEREB, KINSEY, BOBACK, SONNEY, DUSH, EMRICK, THOMAS, HEFFLEY, O'BRIEN, DIGIROLAMO, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, HARHART, DAVIS, WHEELAND, ROSS, DEASY, MAJOR, SCHLOSSBERG, GOODMAN, DONATUCCI, O'NEILL, McCARTER, MARSICO, MURT, BENNINGHOFF, C. PARKER, DeLUCA AND WATSON, JANUARY 23, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY 23, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2015, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis is a progressive inflammatory  
4 disease causing damage to joint and organ tissues, resulting in  
5 severe pain, frequent disability and increased mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis, also known as rheumatoid  
7 disease, affects about 1% of the world's population, with 1.6 to  
8 2 million Americans currently diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of rheumatoid disease include joint  
10 pain, fatigue, fevers, stiffness, hoarseness and dry eyes; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a lack of awareness about rheumatoid  
12 disease since it is often presumed to be a type of arthritis,  
13 leading to problems with disability accommodations, clinical  
14 care, healthcare reimbursement and research funding; and

1       WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that rheumatoid arthritis  
2 patients are twice as likely to experience silent heart attacks  
3 and sudden cardiac deaths, and that the lifetime risk of the  
4 disease is 3.6% for women and 1.7% for men; and

5       WHEREAS, Rheumatoid Awareness Day comes at the start of Heart  
6 Disease Awareness month, underscoring the impact rheumatoid  
7 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

8       WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes  
9 February 2, 2015, as Rheumatoid Awareness Day in order to  
10 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
12 February 2, 2015, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.