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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 652 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, COHEN, SCHLOSSBERG, KIRKLAND, VEREB,  
BENNINGHOFF, HENNESSEY, ROZZI, READSHAW, THOMAS, BAKER,  
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MILLARD, KINSEY, WHEELAND, MCCLINTON, DIGIROLAMO, MATZIE,  
KILLION, DRISCOLL, WATSON, BOBACK, MURT, CALTAGIRONE, GROVE,  
ROSS, McNEILL, FARINA, MARSICO AND D. COSTA, JANUARY 22, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 22, 2016

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2016, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease, also known as Kawasaki syndrome,  
4 is a serious illness characterized by inflammation of blood  
5 vessels throughout the body that primarily affects young  
6 children and infants; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 26, 1961, Dr. Tomisaku Kawasaki, a  
8 Japanese pediatrician, discovered a pattern of symptoms that  
9 would later be named Kawasaki disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Kawasaki disease include a fever lasting  
11 at least five days, red bloodshot eyes, rash, inflammation of  
12 the mouth, lips and throat and swollen hands, feet and lymph  
13 nodes; and

14 WHEREAS, The first cases of Kawasaki disease reported outside  
15 of Japan were in Hawaii in 1976; and

1 WHEREAS, Although Kawasaki disease is more prevalent among  
2 children of Asian and Pacific Island descent, this illness  
3 affects all racial and ethnic groups; and

4 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease is more prevalent in male children  
5 than female children; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 75% of Kawasaki disease patients are  
7 under five years of age and the majority of cases are diagnosed  
8 in winter and early spring; and

9 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
10 provides that approximately 3,277 children under the age of five  
11 were hospitalized with Kawasaki disease in 2000, and that number  
12 increased to 4,040 in 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, Without the standard treatment of intravenous  
14 immunoglobulin and aspirin, approximately 25% of children who  
15 suffer from Kawasaki disease develop heart disease involving the  
16 coronary arteries; and

17 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease is the number one cause of acquired  
18 heart disease in children worldwide; and

19 WHEREAS, Timely diagnosis and treatment is highly effective  
20 in preventing coronary complications from Kawasaki disease; and

21 WHEREAS, The precise cause of Kawasaki disease is unknown and  
22 there is no test to definitively diagnose cases; and

23 WHEREAS, Lack of awareness among the public and health care  
24 professionals may contribute to the underdiagnosis of Kawasaki  
25 disease; and

26 WHEREAS, The growing prevalence of Kawasaki disease and the  
27 risk of severe, life-threatening consequences expose the need  
28 for further education for the general public, parents and health  
29 care professionals; and

30 WHEREAS, January 26, 2016, marks the 55th anniversary of the

1 discovery of Kawasaki disease; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January  
3 26, 2016, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania  
4 and recognize the importance of awareness in diagnosing and  
5 properly treating cases of Kawasaki disease.