
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 720 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MILLARD, CUTLER,
V. BROWN, BOBACK, BENNINGHOFF, HENNESSEY, MURT, BIZZARRO,
SAINATO, READSHAW, COHEN, BAKER, R. BROWN, ROZZI, KILLION,
SONNEY, DUSH, WHEELAND, THOMAS, DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, KIM,
HELM, MAJOR, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, HARHART, LONGIETTI,
PICKETT, FREEMAN, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHWEYER, VEREB,
DONATUCCI, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG, REGAN, GOODMAN, HAHN, PAYNE,
QUIGLEY, MARSICO, GROVE, GILLEN, EVERETT, WATSON, BRADFORD,
GINGRICH AND MILNE, MARCH 10, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 10, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2016 as "Esophageal Cancer
2 Awareness and Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 17,000 people will be
4 diagnosed with esophageal cancer in the United States in 2016,
5 and more than 15,000 will die from the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest cancers:
7 fewer than one in five patients will survive for five years; and

8 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is often not detected and
9 diagnosed until the disease has reached the later stages, when
10 treatment is often radical, likely to cause complications and
11 the outcomes are poor; and

12 WHEREAS, In the past, when esophageal cancer was detected
13 early, open esophagectomy was associated with a high mortality
14 rate and a prolonged length of stay and recovery; and

1 WHEREAS, Recent advances in surgery and critical care have
2 allowed centers of excellence in selected academic hospitals to
3 perform minimally invasive esophagectomy with excellent
4 outcomes, low risk of death and earlier return to activities of
5 daily living; and

6 WHEREAS, One of the most common causes of esophageal cancer
7 is heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is
8 viewed by many sufferers as an acceptable condition of life; and

9 WHEREAS, GERD can lead to Barrett's esophagus, which results
10 in as much as a 125% increase in a person's chance of developing
11 esophageal cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, With monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential
13 for long-term irreversible damage leading to esophageal cancer
14 can be avoided; and

15 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can even occur without reflux
16 symptoms, history of smoking or excessive alcohol use; and

17 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the cancers that receive
18 the least amount of Federal medical research funding; and

19 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians will
20 be enhanced by improving esophageal cancer awareness, prevention
21 and increased research funding into early detection and
22 treatment strategies; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 month of April 2016 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and
25 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.