

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 899 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, TOOIL, COHEN, MILLARD, THOMAS, LONGIETTI,  
DUSH, SONNEY, VEREB, FREEMAN, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY,  
CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, HELM, BAKER,  
McNEILL, BIZZARRO, MARSICO, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, ROSS,  
D. COSTA, READSHAW, MILNE, GINGRICH, PAYNE, MAHONEY, FARINA,  
DeLUCA, PHILLIPS-HILL, MAJOR, DONATUCCI AND NEILSON,  
MAY 19, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 19, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2016, as "Myositis Awareness Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Myositis is a general term used to describe chronic  
4 inflammation of the muscles and associated tissues, such as the  
5 blood vessels that supply the muscles; and

6 WHEREAS, Causes of myositis include a number of idiopathic  
7 inflammatory myopathies, which are a group of rare, progressive  
8 diseases that involve muscle inflammation and are thought to be  
9 autoimmune in nature; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of myositis include muscle weakness,  
11 inflammation, pain, fatigue, skin rashes, lung disease and a  
12 higher than normal incidence of cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, Myositis can affect both children and adults of all  
14 ages with symptoms developing over weeks, months or years while  
15 often mimicking other less rare diseases; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to the rarity of these conditions, there is  
2 often a delay in diagnosis or misdiagnosis causing a  
3 postponement in potentially effective treatments, which may lead  
4 to permanent muscle loss; and

5 WHEREAS, There is no cure for idiopathic inflammatory  
6 myopathies and only limited treatment options exist, many of  
7 which can have significant side effects; and

8 WHEREAS, Education and support for patients, caregivers and  
9 health care providers is essential to the overall health of  
10 patients; and

11 WHEREAS, Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies affect every  
12 aspect of patients' lives, including their emotional and  
13 physical well-being, relationships and financial security; and

14 WHEREAS, Patients with myositis deserve emotional support,  
15 financial assistance, and understanding; and

16 WHEREAS, Raising awareness of and funding for myositis are  
17 important factors in advancing research and developing new, less  
18 damaging treatments with the goal of a cure for idiopathic  
19 inflammatory myopathies; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
21 month of May 2016 as "Myositis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
24 residents of this Commonwealth to learn more about myositis and  
25 advocate for increased funding for research, education and  
26 support programs.