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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 35 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, READSHAW, D. COSTA, CALTAGIRONE, BAKER,  
DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, WARD, MILLARD, R. BROWN, WATSON,  
NEILSON, PICKETT, RYAN, TOOHL, SCHLOSSBERG, HEFFLEY, BOBACK,  
YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, MURT, MARSICO, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI,  
THOMAS, GOODMAN, GABLER, PHILLIPS-HILL, DeLUCA, FREEMAN,  
SOLOMON AND SCHWEYER, JANUARY 23, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 23, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2017, 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 approximately 1% of the world's population,  
8 with approximately 1.5 million Americans currently diagnosed;  
9 and

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

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

1       WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that rheumatoid arthritis  
2 patients have a 50% higher risk of heart attack, twice the risk  
3 of heart failure and an increase in peripheral vascular disease  
4 than people who do not have rheumatoid arthritis; and

5       WHEREAS, The lifetime risk of developing the disease is 3.6%  
6 for women and 1.7% for men; and

7       WHEREAS, "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" comes at the start of  
8 "American Heart Month," underscoring the impact rheumatoid  
9 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

10       WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes  
11 February 2, 2017, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to  
12 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
14 February 2, 2017, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.