
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 41 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, READSHAW, WATSON, MURT, HENNESSEY,
DRISCOLL, MATZIE, LONGIETTI, DUSH, SONNEY, CALTAGIRONE,
BOBACK, DOWLING, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS, KINSEY, WARD, BAKER,
NEILSON, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD AND MILNE, JANUARY 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2017, 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

16 WHEREAS, Although Kawasaki disease is more prevalent among

1 children of Asian and Pacific Island descent, this illness
2 affects all racial and ethnic groups; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, January 26, 2017, marks the 56th anniversary of the
30 discovery of Kawasaki disease; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January
2 26, 2017, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
3 and recognize the importance of awareness in diagnosing and
4 properly treating cases of Kawasaki disease.