
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 645 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, DAVIS, KINSEY,
RYAN, CALTAGIRONE, MATZIE, HILL-EVANS, WARD, MILLARD,
NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, WARREN, LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD, CRUZ,
MACKENZIE, BERNSTINE, BURNS, MURT, J. McNEILL, M. QUINN,
THOMAS, DIGIROLAMO, MEHAFFIE AND SCHWEYER, JANUARY 22, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 22, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2018, 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, 2018, marks the 57th anniversary of the
30 discovery of Kawasaki disease; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January
2 26, 2018, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
3 and recognize the importance of awareness in diagnosing and
4 properly treating cases of Kawasaki disease.