
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 41

Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, READSHAW, BIZZARRO,
SONNEY, CALTAGIRONE, McNEILL, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO, RYAN,
MILLARD, OBERLANDER, MURT, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, YOUNGBLOOD,
PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, NEILSON AND FREEMAN, JANUARY 24, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2019, 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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease is the number one cause of acquired heart disease in children in the United States; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, January 26, 2019, marks the 58th anniversary of the discovery of Kawasaki disease; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January
2 26, 2019, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
3 and recognize the importance of awareness in diagnosing and
4 properly treating cases of Kawasaki disease.