

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 126 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, DONATUCCI, T. DAVIS, CALTAGIRONE, PICKETT, SONNEY, RYAN, KINSEY, BOBACK, DIGIROLAMO, BURNS, LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, SCHLEGEL CULVER, KNOWLES, READSHAW, MURT, CAUSER, COX, BERNSTINE, PYLE, FREEMAN, BROWN, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON, HEFFLEY, NEILSON, DeLUCA, MULLINS AND HERSHEY, MARCH 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2019 as "Esophageal Cancer
2 Awareness and Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, it is
4 estimated that more than 17,290 individuals will be diagnosed
5 with esophageal cancer in the United States in 2019, and almost
6 16,000 will die from the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest cancers,
8 and fewer than one in five patients will survive for five years;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is often not detected and
11 diagnosed until the disease has reached the later stages, and
12 treatment is often radical, is likely to cause complications and
13 involves outcomes which are poor; and

14 WHEREAS, In the past, when esophageal cancer was detected
15 early, open esophagectomy was associated with a high mortality

1 rate and a prolonged length of stay and recovery; and

2 WHEREAS, Recent advances in surgery and critical care have
3 allowed centers of excellence in selected academic hospitals to
4 perform minimally invasive esophagectomy, some robotically, with
5 excellent outcomes, lower risk of death and earlier return to
6 activities of daily living; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the most common causes of esophageal cancer
8 is heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is
9 viewed by many sufferers as an acceptable condition of life; and

10 WHEREAS, GERD can lead to Barrett's esophagus, which results
11 in as much as a 125% increase in an individual's chance of
12 developing esophageal cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, With monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential
14 for long-term irreversible damage leading to esophageal cancer
15 can be minimized; and

16 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can occur without reflux symptoms
17 or history of smoking or excessive alcohol use; and

18 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the cancers that receive
19 the least amount of Federal medical research funding; and

20 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all residents of this
21 Commonwealth will be enhanced by improving esophageal cancer
22 awareness, prevention and increased research funding into early
23 detection and treatment strategies; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of April 2019 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and
26 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
28 residents of this Commonwealth to take steps to prevent this
29 disease through treatment of gastroesophageal reflux.