
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 226 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, FRANKEL, BIZZARRO, DONATUCCI, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, ECKER, KINSEY, THOMAS,
CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, BERNSTINE, MURT, BROWN, KORTZ,
MEHAFFIE, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD, FREEMAN,
PASHINSKI, B. MILLER, DeLUCA, KIRKLAND, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS,
McCLINTON AND MARKOSEK, APRIL 15, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 as "Crohn's Disease and
2 Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are
4 inflammatory bowel diseases that cause chronic inflammation and
5 damage in the gastrointestinal tract and impair the ability of
6 the affected organs to function properly; and

7 WHEREAS, The most common symptoms of these two diseases are
8 persistent diarrhea, abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, weight
9 loss and fatigue; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals with inflammatory bowel disease often go
11 through periods of remission with few or no symptoms,
12 alternating with periods of flare-ups when the disease is active
13 and presenting symptoms; and

14 WHEREAS, The exact cause of these diseases is not entirely
15 understood, but they do involve a complex interaction between

1 genes, the immune system and environmental factors; and

2 WHEREAS, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect as
3 many as 1.6 million Americans, including 80,000 children; and

4 WHEREAS, These diseases are most often diagnosed in
5 adolescence and early adulthood, between the ages of 15 and 35;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Cases of inflammatory bowel diseases are on the rise
8 in the United States, with nearly 70,000 people diagnosed each
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, These chronic conditions can significantly affect a
11 patient's quality of life; and

12 WHEREAS, The annual financial burden of inflammatory bowel
13 diseases in the United States is estimated to be between \$14.6
14 billion and \$31.6 billion; and

15 WHEREAS, There is no cure for Crohn's disease or ulcerative
16 colitis, only medications and treatments that aim to suppress
17 inflammation, achieve and maintain remission and improve overall
18 quality of life; and

19 WHEREAS, Even with treatment, up to one-third of people with
20 ulcerative colitis will require surgery after 30 years with the
21 disease, and approximately 70% of people with Crohn's disease
22 eventually require surgery; and

23 WHEREAS, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation sponsors cutting-
24 edge research to find a cure and works diligently to improve the
25 quality of life of children and adults affected by these
26 diseases through a wide range of educational programs and
27 support services for both patients and health care
28 professionals; and

29 WHEREAS, "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness
30 Month" increases public awareness of these diseases,

1 acknowledges the medical and financial impact these diseases
2 have on affected individuals and their families and promotes
3 initiatives to improve treatments and find a cure for Crohn's
4 disease and ulcerative colitis; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
6 month of May 2019 as "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis
7 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge those
9 suffering from these diseases and their desire for a cure.