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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 351 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO,  
RYAN, DiGIROLAMO, MEHAFFIE, CALTAGIRONE, FREEMAN, BURNS,  
LONGIETTI, BROWN, SCHROEDER, MILLARD, KINSEY, OBERLANDER,  
READSHAW, EVERETT, MOUL, GILLEN AND NEILSON, MAY 22, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 22, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2019 as "Juvenile Idiopathic  
2 Arthritis Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is an  
4 autoinflammatory disease of an unknown origin and is the most  
5 common type of arthritis in children; and

6 WHEREAS, An autoinflammatory disease causes the immune system  
7 to become overactive even when there is no infection or illness  
8 to fight or mistakenly attack healthy cells and tissues; and

9 WHEREAS, There is no evidence as to what causes JIA and no  
10 links have been found that foods, toxins, allergies or the lack  
11 of vitamins play a role in developing the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Current research indicates that there is a genetic  
13 predisposition to JIA; and

14 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that a trigger, like a virus,  
15 can start JIA in a child with the genetic tendency; and

16 WHEREAS, Systemic JIA, oligoarticular JIA, polyarticular JIA,

1 juvenile psoriatic arthritis, enthesitis-related JIA and  
2 undifferentiated arthritis are the six subtypes of JIA; and

3 WHEREAS, Nearly 300,000 children in the United States have  
4 some form of arthritis; and

5 WHEREAS, Typical symptoms of arthritis include limping,  
6 stiffness when awakening, reluctance to use an arm or leg,  
7 reduced activity level, persistent fever, joint swelling and  
8 difficulty with fine motor skills; and

9 WHEREAS, Most children with arthritis can expect to live  
10 normal lives and some even have their arthritis go into  
11 remission; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a small number of specialists who treat  
13 JIA, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a leader in  
14 the field; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the American College of Rheumatology,  
16 the best care for a child with JIA is provided by a pediatric  
17 rheumatology team that has extensive experience and can diagnose  
18 and manage the complex needs of the child; and

19 WHEREAS, A pediatric rheumatology team may consist of a  
20 pediatric rheumatologist, a physical therapist, an occupational  
21 therapist, a social worker and a nurse specialist who coordinate  
22 care with other health professionals and school and community  
23 officials; and

24 WHEREAS, The overall treatment goal for a child with JIA is  
25 to control the symptoms, prevent joint damage and maintain  
26 function; and

27 WHEREAS, Medications, including steroids, disease-modifying  
28 drugs and biologics along with physical and occupational therapy  
29 are used to treat JIA; and

30 WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers of children with JIA should

1 be familiar with section 794 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
2 (Public Law 93-112, 29 U.S.C. § 794), which may provide for  
3 special accommodations at school; and

4 WHEREAS, Children with JIA may be eligible for assistance  
5 through services provided by State agencies; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
7 month of July 2019 as "Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Month" in  
8 Pennsylvania.