
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 351 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, STRUZZI, 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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Systemic JIA, oligoarticular JIA, polyarticular JIA,
2 juvenile psoriatic arthritis, enthesitis-related JIA and
3 undifferentiated arthritis are the six subtypes of JIA; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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