
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 360 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, DiGIROLAMO, YOUNGBLOOD, FRANKEL,
SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, McCLINTON,
KORTZ, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, BURNS, MILLARD,
READSHAW AND NEILSON, MAY 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2019 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that is
4 found throughout all geographic locations and socioeconomic
5 groups and infects between 50% and 80% of adults in the United
6 States who have reached 40 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, CMV belongs to the same group of viruses that
8 includes chickenpox, shingles, mononucleosis and herpes simplex
9 viruses and remains with a person for life once infected; and

10 WHEREAS, Most healthy adults and children who are infected
11 with CMV have few, if any, signs or symptoms and often go
12 undiagnosed; and

13 WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 60% of women are
14 at risk for contracting CMV during pregnancy, with the highest
15 risk among pregnant women who already have young children or who
16 work with young children; and

1 WHEREAS, Due to its prevalence, CMV is the virus most
2 frequently transmitted by an infected mother to a child before
3 or during birth; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 1 in
5 every 200 children is born with congenital CMV, causing an
6 estimated 400 deaths and leaving approximately 6,000 children
7 with permanent disabilities such as hearing or vision loss or
8 intellectual disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Roughly 10% of babies born with congenital CMV are
10 symptomatic at birth, while the overwhelming majority do not
11 present any symptoms as a newborn; and

12 WHEREAS, More children are adversely affected by congenital
13 CMV than by several better-known childhood diseases or syndromes
14 such as Down syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, neural tube
15 defects, such as spina bifida, and pediatric HIV/AIDS; and

16 WHEREAS, Congenital CMV infection is more common than the 35
17 combined metabolic and endocrine disorders on the Recommended
18 Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) for newborns; and

19 WHEREAS, Screening for congenital CMV can only occur within
20 the first 21 days of life by screening newborns for CMV in the
21 saliva, urine or both; and

22 WHEREAS, Congenital CMV screening was nominated for
23 consideration to be included on the RUSP in March 2019; and

24 WHEREAS, In the United States, only 9% of women have heard of
25 CMV, compared with 97% who have heard of Down syndrome and 98%
26 who have heard of HIV/AIDS; and

27 WHEREAS, Every woman of childbearing age should know her CMV
28 status by asking her doctor for a CMV blood test; and

29 WHEREAS, To prevent CMV, women should avoid saliva and other
30 bodily fluids of children under six years of age and practice

1 frequent hand washing with soap and water; and

2 WHEREAS, The National CMV Foundation further recommends that
3 women not share food, utensils, drinks, straws or a toothbrush
4 with a child, not place a pacifier in their mouth, avoid contact
5 with saliva when kissing a child and practice good hand washing
6 technique after coming into contact with a child's saliva or
7 bodily fluids; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
9 month of June 2019 as "Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month" in
10 Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
12 residents to work within their communities to increase awareness
13 about the risk of contracting CMV and how to take steps to
14 prevent the spread of CMV, especially among pregnant women.