
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 407 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON-HARRELL, KINSEY, McCLINTON, DAWKINS,
CEPHAS, WHEATLEY, HARRIS, CALTAGIRONE, FRANKEL, SCHLOSSBERG,
KORTZ, BIZZARRO, DONATUCCI, KIRKLAND, McNEILL, WILLIAMS,
LONGIETTI, BURNS, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, MURT,
JONES, DiGIROLAMO, DAVIDSON, KOSIEROWSKI, MALAGARI, MARKOSEK,
DeLUCA, FREEMAN, ROEBUCK, DRISCOLL, MULLINS, MADDEN, BURGOS,
HENNESSEY, T. DAVIS, SAYLOR, BARRAR, TOEPEL AND READSHAW,
JUNE 17, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 17, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 19, 2019, as "World Sickle Cell Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, approximately 2,000
4 infants are born with sickle cell disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is a group of disorders that
6 affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that
7 delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body; and

8 WHEREAS, Red blood cells which are normally round and soft
9 become sickle-shaped, making it difficult for these cells to
10 pass through small blood vessels; and

11 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease occurs when a child inherits two
12 sickle hemoglobin genes, one from each parent; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda,
14 Maryland, developed a stem cell transplantation procedure that

1 successfully cured Ieshea Thomas in 2011, the first sickle cell
2 disease patient in the Midwest United States to be cured; and

3 WHEREAS, The complications from this serious disease can be
4 fatal, making the primary goal of health care providers to
5 prevent complications such as sickle cell pain crisis and
6 infections; and

7 WHEREAS, In the United States, sickle cell disease occurs in
8 one in every 365 African-American births and one in every 16,300
9 Hispanic-American births; and

10 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease is more common among those whose
11 ancestors came from sub-Saharan Africa, Spanish-speaking regions
12 in the Western Hemisphere, including South America, the
13 Caribbean and Central America, Saudi Arabia, India and
14 Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Greece and Italy; and

15 WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000
16 people in the United States and millions worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization designated June 19 as
18 "World Sickle Cell Day" and recognizes this disease as a public
19 health priority; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
21 19, 2019, as "World Sickle Cell Day" in Pennsylvania.