
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 565 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BIZZARRO, HENNESSEY,
LONGIETTI, RYAN, KORTZ, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, HARKINS,
FREEMAN, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, BURNS, DIGIROLAMO,
ZIMMERMAN AND MURT, OCTOBER 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 20, 2019, as "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1878, German medical scientist Paul Ehrlich is
4 credited with determining that mast cells were a unique category
5 of cells; and

6 WHEREAS, While the term mast cell continues to be used to
7 describe these cells well into the 21st century, the
8 understanding of the functioning and pathology of these cells
9 has continued to evolve since their discovery, as these cells
10 are now recognized for the critical role that they play in the
11 healthy functioning of the human immune system; and

12 WHEREAS, Mast cells are scattered throughout the body in
13 connective tissues, especially beneath the surface of the skin,
14 near blood vessels and lymphatic vessels, within nerves,
15 throughout the respiratory system and in the digestive and
16 urinary tracts; and

17 WHEREAS, Healthy mast cells detect stress, injury, toxins or

1 infection and release specific chemicals called mediators which
2 trigger a response; and

3 WHEREAS, Mast cells serve a protective role for our bodies
4 and are intimately involved in wound healing, angiogenesis,
5 immune tolerance, defense against pathogens and blood-brain
6 barrier function; and

7 WHEREAS, In certain individuals, mast cells become agitated
8 or overactive and start to accumulate or cause the immune system
9 to malfunction, commonly referred to as mast cell disease, but
10 it includes a host of disorders relative to improperly
11 functioning mast cells; and

12 WHEREAS, These disorders include mastocytosis, which is the
13 abnormal accumulation of mast cells in organs and mast cell
14 activation syndrome, which involves the inappropriate release of
15 mast cell mediators; and

16 WHEREAS, Mast cell diseases can cause tremendous suffering
17 and disability due to symptoms arising from infiltration and
18 accumulation of mast cells in major organ systems or
19 symptomatology from daily mast cell mediator release; and

20 WHEREAS, In recognition of the need to increase awareness of
21 mast cell diseases, the first "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day"
22 was observed in 2018 as a result of a collaborative effort from
23 a host of advocacy groups involved with various mast cell
24 disorders; and

25 WHEREAS, "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" aims to raise the
26 awareness of this family of diseases that ranges from life-
27 threatening forms to more benign forms and the need for more
28 accurate diagnostics, better treatments and further investments
29 in research; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October

1 20, 2019, as "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.