
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 683 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, MILLARD, BURNS, KORTZ, BIZZARRO,
LONGIETTI, QUINN, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, FREEMAN, KINSEY,
KIM, ROEBUCK, TOOHL AND READSHAW, JANUARY 21, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 21, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2020, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease, also known as Kawasaki syndrome,
4 is a serious illness characterized by inflammation of blood
5 vessels throughout the body that primarily affects young
6 children and infants; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 26, 1961, Dr. Tomisaku Kawasaki, a
8 Japanese pediatrician, discovered a pattern of symptoms that
9 would later be named Kawasaki disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Kawasaki disease include a fever lasting
11 at least five days, red bloodshot eyes, rash, inflammation of
12 the mouth, lips and throat and swollen hands, feet and lymph
13 nodes; and

14 WHEREAS, The first cases of Kawasaki disease reported outside
15 of Japan were in Hawaii in 1976; and

16 WHEREAS, Although Kawasaki disease is more prevalent among
17 children of Asian and Pacific Island descent, this illness

1 affects all racial and ethnic groups; and

2 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease is more prevalent in male children
3 than female children; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 75% of Kawasaki disease patients are
5 under five years of age and the majority of cases are diagnosed
6 in winter and early spring; and

7 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
8 estimates 3,277 children under the age of five were hospitalized
9 with Kawasaki disease in 2000, and that number increased to
10 4,040 in 2009; and

11 WHEREAS, Without the standard treatment of intravenous
12 immunoglobulin and aspirin, approximately 25% of children who
13 suffer from Kawasaki disease develop heart disease involving the
14 coronary arteries; and

15 WHEREAS, Kawasaki disease is the number one cause of acquired
16 heart disease in children in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Timely diagnosis and treatment is highly effective
18 in preventing coronary complications from Kawasaki disease; and

19 WHEREAS, The precise cause of Kawasaki disease is unknown,
20 and there is no test to definitively diagnose cases; and

21 WHEREAS, Lack of awareness among the public and health care
22 professionals may contribute to the underdiagnosis of Kawasaki
23 disease; and

24 WHEREAS, The growing prevalence of Kawasaki disease and the
25 risk of severe, life-threatening consequences expose the need
26 for further education for the general public, parents and health
27 care professionals; and

28 WHEREAS, January 26, 2020, marks the 59th anniversary of the
29 discovery of Kawasaki disease; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January

1 26, 2020, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
2 and recognize the importance of awareness in diagnosing and
3 properly treating cases of Kawasaki disease.