
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 889 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, KIM, BIZZARRO, FREEMAN, KORTZ, McNEILL,
KIRKLAND, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY,
LONGIETTI, SCHMITT, SONNEY, ULLMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, MALAGARI,
READSHAW, BURNS, ROZZI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, NEILSON, MILLARD,
MURT, SCHWEYER AND GAINEY, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2020 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month"
2 and May 19, 2020, as "Hepatitis Testing Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis, a condition which causes inflammation and
4 potential failure of the liver, is caused by a virus and
5 reported to be found in more than five million people living in
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are the
8 most common forms of the disease; and

9 WHEREAS, Hepatitis D, hepatitis E and autoimmune hepatitis
10 are also forms of the disease, although they are far more rare
11 than hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C; and

12 WHEREAS, Hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are
13 transmitted in different ways; and

14 WHEREAS, Consequently, it is important to know the risk
15 factors for hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C and how to
16 connect with testing resources; and

1 WHEREAS, It is important that residents of this Commonwealth
2 assess their risk, get tested and seek vaccination or treatment
3 as recommended by their health care providers because the signs
4 and symptoms of hepatitis may not be readily apparent; and

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been a leading voice for
6 hepatitis prevention, detection and treatment; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1967, Dr. Baruch Blumberg discovered hepatitis B
8 at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and later went on
9 to discover the vaccine that would prevent the transmission of
10 the virus in 1969, earning him a Nobel Prize in Physiology or
11 Medicine; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 87 of 2016, which
13 requires health care practitioners to offer a hepatitis test to
14 any individual born between the years 1945 and 1965 at a health
15 care facility or a physician's office; and

16 WHEREAS, The Allegheny County Health Department and the
17 Community Liver Alliance have partnered together to create a
18 county-wide campaign called Hep C Free Allegheny, which works to
19 develop and implement strategies to meet the campaign's goal of
20 eliminating the disease; and

21 WHEREAS, Similarly, the Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia
22 and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health have started
23 the C Change initiative with the goal of eliminating hepatitis C
24 and hepatitis B across the entire city; and

25 WHEREAS, Based in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, the Hepatitis B
26 Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to
27 finding a cure and improving the quality of life of the
28 countless individuals affected by hepatitis B; and

29 WHEREAS, Each year, the Centers for Disease Control and
30 Prevention designates May 19 as "Hepatitis Testing Day" and the

1 month of May as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" to encourage
2 individuals to seek testing services so that transmission of
3 hepatitis can be reduced and health outcomes may be improved;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human
6 Services encourages individuals to use the risk assessment tool
7 on the Department of Health and Human Services' publicly
8 accessible Internet website to find a trusted, accessible health
9 care provider for hepatitis testing and treatment; therefore be
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
12 month of May 2020 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month" and May 19,
13 2020, as "Hepatitis Testing Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives fully acknowledge
16 the impact that hepatitis has on residents of this Commonwealth
17 and their families; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to
19 advocate for those who are at risk and have been diagnosed with
20 hepatitis and are seeking accessible and affordable medical
21 attention in order to maintain or improve their health and
22 quality of life.