
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1079 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY GREEN, MILLARD, MURT, LONGIETTI, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
WILLIAMS, GALLOWAY, WARREN, COX AND DRISCOLL,
OCTOBER 22, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 22, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 30, 2020, as "Cancer of Unknown Primary
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cancer can develop anywhere in the body, and the
4 organ or part of the body where cancer begins is known as the
5 primary site; and

6 WHEREAS, Cancer, including cancer that metastasizes, or
7 spreads, to form new tumors elsewhere in the body is named after
8 the primary site; and

9 WHEREAS, Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) occurs when cancer
10 cells have spread in the body and form metastatic tumors, yet
11 the site of the primary cancer is not known; and

12 WHEREAS, Also called occult primary cancer, CUP is most
13 commonly found in the lymph nodes, liver, lungs, bones or skin;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, An individual may be diagnosed with CUP if the
16 original tumor is too small to be identified with imaging tests
17 or if the cancer is in many parts of the body and it is unclear

1 which location is the primary site; and

2 WHEREAS, For most people with CUP, a primary site of cancer
3 is not identified, and teams of oncology and health care
4 professionals identify features of each individual tumor to
5 determine the best care plan; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that
7 approximately 30,270 cases of CUP will be diagnosed in 2020 in
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Signs and symptoms of CUP depend on what part of the
10 body is involved and can include lumps that can be felt through
11 the skin, pain, changes in bowel habits, such as new and
12 persistent constipation or diarrhea, frequent urination, cough,
13 fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss; and

14 WHEREAS, The risk of CUP may be related to older age and a
15 family history of cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, Worldwide, CUP remains the sixth to eighth most
17 common cancer and the third to fourth most common cause of
18 cancer-related deaths; and

19 WHEREAS, Epidemiological studies reveal that the median age
20 of CUP diagnosis is approximately 60 years with no significant
21 difference in incidents between the sexes; and

22 WHEREAS, About 80% to 85% of patients diagnosed with CUP are
23 impacted by an aggressive form of the disease with an
24 unpredictable pattern of metastatic spread resistant to standard
25 chemotherapy, leading to a reduced survival rate of 5 to 11
26 months on average; and

27 WHEREAS, It is imperative that all Pennsylvania health care
28 professionals, patients and cancer research centers foster
29 greater awareness for cancers of unknown primary sites;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
2 November 30, 2020, as "Cancer of Unknown Primary Day" in
3 Pennsylvania.