

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 249 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, ZIMMERMAN, KAUFFMAN, CAUSER, ROWE, VENKAT,
NEILSON, RIVERA AND GALLAGHER, JUNE 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 4, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 21 through 28, 2025, as
2 "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week"
3 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of
4 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis to support improved diagnosis
5 and treatment.

6 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and
7 generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the
8 lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability
9 to transport oxygen; and

10 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly,
11 often causing disability or death within three to five years;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common
14 form of interstitial lung disease; and

15 WHEREAS, There is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary
16 fibrosis, and it is often misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed; and

17 WHEREAS, Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is five times more
18 common than cystic fibrosis and Lou Gehrig's disease, yet the
19 disease remains virtually unknown and receives a fraction of the

1 research funding; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 132,000 United States citizens have
3 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and more than 50,000 new cases are
4 diagnosed each year; and

5 WHEREAS, 40,000 people die each year due to idiopathic
6 pulmonary fibrosis, the same number as breast cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, Approximately 7,000 Pennsylvanians suffer from
8 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has become a leader in the
10 research and treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, with
11 more than 15% of all lung transplants in the United States
12 performed in Pennsylvania hospitals; and

13 WHEREAS, Organizations like the Wescoe Foundation for
14 Pulmonary Fibrosis and the Pennsylvania Idiopathic Pulmonary
15 Fibrosis Support Network play a crucial role in raising
16 awareness and providing support and education for patients,
17 families and health care providers throughout this Commonwealth;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Increased research, awareness and detection of
20 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is needed; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 week of September 21 through 28, 2025, as "Idiopathic Pulmonary
23 Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to
24 increase awareness and understanding of idiopathic pulmonary
25 fibrosis to support improved diagnosis and treatment.