
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 339 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, MADDEN, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD,
SONNEY, FREEMAN, FRANKEL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PICKETT, MILLARD,
LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, JOHNSON-HARRELL, MEHAFFIE,
DIGIROLAMO, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, JAMES, KORTZ, KINSEY,
CALTAGIRONE, T. DAVIS, PASHINSKI, BURNS AND DALEY,
MAY 13, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 13, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2019 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every day, an estimated 1.5 million Americans and 5
4 million people worldwide struggle with the debilitating
5 consequences of lupus, a potentially fatal autoimmune disease
6 that can damage any part of a lupus patient's body; and

7 WHEREAS, In an autoimmune disease such as lupus, the immune
8 system effectively loses its way and, instead of warding off
9 foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria, attacks healthy
10 cells, causing inflammation and pain and leading to permanent
11 damage; and

12 WHEREAS, Lupus has no cure and no known cause, and, despite
13 the current treatment and available medications, many lupus
14 patients have symptoms that cannot be managed well enough for
15 patients to lead normal lives, complete their education and

1 maintain employment; and

2 WHEREAS, Nine out of ten people with lupus are women, and 80%
3 of new cases are diagnosed in women between 15 and 44 years of
4 age, with the majority of new cases seen in women in their late
5 teens and early 20s; and

6 WHEREAS, Although the disease is most frequently seen in
7 those patients, individuals of any age or gender can develop
8 lupus; and

9 WHEREAS, Lupus was identified as a disease in 1872, but is an
10 underrecognized public health problem that attracts rare
11 attention and funding for research for a cure; and

12 WHEREAS, Lupus is often referred to as "the disease that
13 fools," due to the patient's unawareness of its presence for
14 extended periods of time; and

15 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-
16 State Chapter, a nonprofit volunteer health organization with a
17 history of service since the early 1970s, provides supportive
18 services to the victims of lupus, funds medical research into
19 the disease's causes and possible treatments and educates the
20 public concerning the realities of lupus; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
22 month of May 2019 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to
23 give more attention and awareness to the disease.