
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 655 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, BURNS, READSHAW, KORTZ, MARKOSEK,
BIZZARRO, HILL-EVANS, HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI, YOUNGBLOOD,
KINSEY, BOBACK, SONNEY, DONATUCCI, HEFFLEY, MEHAFFIE,
BERNSTINE, MALAGARI, ULLMAN, PICKETT, SCHLOSSBERG, BROOKS,
McNEILL, SOLOMON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BROWN, SCHMITT, MURT,
NEILSON, MILLARD AND WARREN, JANUARY 10, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 10, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 2, 2020, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis is a progressive inflammatory
4 disease causing damage to joint and organ tissues, resulting in
5 severe pain, frequent disability and increased mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, Rheumatoid arthritis, also known as rheumatoid
7 disease, affects approximately 1% of the world's population,
8 with more than 1.3 million Americans currently diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Common symptoms of rheumatoid disease include joint
10 pain, fatigue, fevers, stiffness, hoarseness and dry eyes; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a lack of awareness about rheumatoid
12 disease since it is often presumed to be a type of arthritis,
13 leading to problems with disability accommodations, clinical
14 care, health care reimbursement and research funding; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic states that rheumatoid arthritis
16 patients have a 50% higher risk of heart attack, twice the risk

1 of heart failure and an increase in peripheral vascular disease
2 than people who do not have rheumatoid arthritis; and

3 WHEREAS, The lifetime risk of developing the disease is 3.6%
4 for women and 1.7% for men; and

5 WHEREAS, "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" comes at the start of
6 "American Heart Month," underscoring the impact rheumatoid
7 disease has on the heart prior to diagnosis; and

8 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes
9 February 2, 2020, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to
10 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
12 February 2, 2020, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.