
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 427 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, COHEN, HENNESSEY, SCHLOSSBERG,
DONATUCCI, READSHAW, BISHOP, BENNINGHOFF, MILLARD, KOTIK,
BOBACK, BAKER, LONGIETTI, KIM, FARINA, BIZZARRO, KINSEY,
MAHONEY, MURT, PICKETT, ROSS, VEREB, DUSH, SONNEY, ROZZI,
DIGIROLAMO, KILLION, CAUSER, PAYNE, GROVE, MARSICO, D. COSTA,
CALTAGIRONE, DAVIS, KIRKLAND, SCHWEYER, O'NEILL, GOODMAN,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, MAJOR, YOUNGBLOOD, WARD, McCARTER, MILNE,
PETRI, WATSON, THOMAS, McNEILL, DRISCOLL AND R. BROWN,
JULY 21, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2015 as "National Sarcoma
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sarcoma is a cancer of connective tissues, such as
4 nerves, muscles, joints, fat, bones and blood vessels, and it
5 can arise anywhere in the body; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, more
7 than 13,000 new cases of soft tissue and bone sarcoma are
8 diagnosed each year in the United States, and each year
9 approximately 4,400 people die from soft tissue sarcoma and
10 approximately 1,400 people die from bone sarcoma; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, the
12 five-year relative survival rate for bone and soft tissue
13 sarcoma is approximately 66%; and

14 WHEREAS, There are two main types of sarcoma, bone sarcomas

1 and soft tissue sarcomas, which are further subclassified based
2 on the type of presumed cell of origin found in the tumor; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 50 subtypes of sarcomas have been
4 identified; and

5 WHEREAS, Sarcomas can develop in children and adults and more
6 men than women develop soft tissue sarcoma; and

7 WHEREAS, One percent of the cancers diagnosed in adults and
8 15% of cancers diagnosed in children each year are sarcomas; and

9 WHEREAS, Sarcomas are more common in adolescents and young
10 adults than most other cancers and, as a result, the number of
11 years of life lost to sarcomas is substantial, despite their
12 relatively low incidence; and

13 WHEREAS, Given that sarcomas can be difficult to distinguish
14 from other malignancies when they are found within organs,
15 sarcoma incidence is probably underestimated; and

16 WHEREAS, Early on, soft tissue sarcoma rarely causes any
17 symptoms, and because soft tissue is very elastic, the tumors
18 can grow quite large before they are felt; and

19 WHEREAS, As the tumor grows and begins to press against the
20 nerves and muscles, pain and soreness can occur; and

21 WHEREAS, No modifiable risk factors for sarcoma have been
22 identified; and

23 WHEREAS, It is not clear why some people develop sarcoma,
24 however, researchers have been able to identify some common
25 characteristics in groups with a high rate of soft tissue
26 sarcoma; and

27 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that people exposed to
28 phenoxyacetic acid in herbicides and chlorophenols in wood
29 preservative have increased risk of soft tissue sarcoma; and

30 WHEREAS, The standard treatments for soft tissue sarcoma

1 include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy; and

2 WHEREAS, Patients with bone sarcoma and uterine sarcoma may
3 receive samarium and hormone therapy, respectively; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute recognizes that
5 sarcoma is often misdiagnosed and underreported; and

6 WHEREAS, For this reason, the National Cancer Institute, the
7 Sarcoma Alliance, the Sarcoma Foundation of America and other
8 organizations are working to promote sarcoma awareness and
9 support programs to improve education, knowledge, research and
10 treatment of the condition; and

11 WHEREAS, Continued coordination and cooperation among
12 researchers, families and the public is needed to improve
13 prognoses for people who battle sarcoma; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
15 month of July 2015 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month" in
16 Pennsylvania and urge the residents of this Commonwealth to
17 support the efforts, programs, services and organizations that
18 work to enhance research and awareness of sarcoma.