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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 296 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, PICKETT, SANCHEZ, GALLAGHER, HILL-EVANS,  
MALAGARI, HOHENSTEIN, KHAN, NEILSON, DALEY, HADDOCK AND  
O'MARA, JANUARY 31, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 31, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February 2, 2024, 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  
17 of heart failure and an increase in peripheral vascular disease

1 than people who do not have rheumatoid arthritis; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation recognizes  
8 February 2, 2024, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in order to  
9 increase public awareness of the disease; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
11 February 2, 2024, as "Rheumatoid Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.