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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 203 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY RAPP, ZIMMERMAN, KHAN, CAUSER, HADDOCK AND  
PICKETT, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 17 through 24, 2023, as  
2 "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week"  
3 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and understanding of  
4 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
15 week of September 17 through 24, 2023, as "Idiopathic Pulmonary  
16 Fibrosis Research and Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to  
17 increase awareness and understanding of idiopathic pulmonary  
18 fibrosis to support improved diagnosis and treatment.