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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 29 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, COHEN, VEREB, CUTLER, BAKER, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, BISHOP, J. HARRIS, THOMAS, MILLARD, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM, FARINA, DAVIS, HARHART, CALTAGIRONE, KILLION, DIGIROLAMO, SCHWEYER, MATZIE, BROWNLEE, SCHLOSSBERG, WHEELAND, MARSICO, READSHAW, MURT, ROSS, MAJOR AND GOODMAN, JANUARY 21, 2015

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

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 26, 2015, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Kawasaki Disease, also known as Kawasaki Syndrome,  
4 is a serious childhood illness that primarily affects the blood  
5 vessels of young children and infants; and

6 WHEREAS, Kawasaki Disease is the number one cause of acquired  
7 heart disease in children worldwide; and

8 WHEREAS, On January 26, 1961, Dr. Tomisaku Kawasaki  
9 discovered a pattern of symptoms that would later be named  
10 Kawasaki Disease; and

11 WHEREAS, The first cases of Kawasaki Disease to be recognized  
12 in the United States were in Hawaii in the early 1970s; and

13 WHEREAS, Kawasaki Disease is characterized by inflammation of  
14 the blood vessels and coronary arteries throughout the body and  
15 can lead to heart disease, aneurysms and other serious

1 consequences if left untreated; and

2 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Kawasaki Disease include a fever lasting  
3 at least 5 days, red eyes, a rash across the body and swollen  
4 hands, feet and lymph nodes; and

5 WHEREAS, As with most illnesses and diseases, timely  
6 diagnosis and treatment is highly effective in preventing  
7 further and more serious complications from Kawasaki Disease;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Scientific studies have indicated that genetic  
10 inheritance is an important risk factor of Kawasaki Disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Kawasaki Disease is most common in children one to  
12 two years of age and is less common in children older than eight  
13 years of age; and

14 WHEREAS, Kawasaki Disease is more prevalent in male children  
15 than female children; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 75% of patients affected with Kawasaki  
17 Disease are under five years of age and symptoms are normally  
18 present in late winter and early spring; and

19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 4,200 children in the  
20 United States are diagnosed with Kawasaki Disease each year; and

21 WHEREAS, Lack of knowledge of Kawasaki Disease combined with  
22 symptoms that can disappear have hampered diagnosis and  
23 treatment efforts for those affected; and

24 WHEREAS, The growing prevalence of Kawasaki Disease and the  
25 risk of severe, life-threatening consequences expose the need  
26 for further education for the general public, parents and  
27 healthcare professionals; and

28 WHEREAS, January 26, 2015, marks the 54th anniversary of the  
29 discovery of Kawasaki Disease; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January

1 26, 2015, as "Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.