

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 174 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, CONKLIN, FREEMAN, HOHENSTEIN, KHAN,  
MCNEILL, NEILSON, REICHARD, VENKAT AND ZIMMERMAN,  
APRIL 3, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 3, 2025

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of July 2025 as "Juvenile Arthritis  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Juvenile arthritis is an umbrella term that refers  
4 to pediatric rheumatic diseases that can develop in children 16  
5 years of age or younger; and

6 WHEREAS, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is an  
7 autoinflammatory disease of an unknown origin and the most  
8 common type of arthritis in children; and

9 WHEREAS, An autoinflammatory disease causes the immune system  
10 to become overactive even when there is no infection or illness  
11 to fight or mistakenly attack healthy cells and tissues; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no evidence as to what causes JIA and no  
13 evidence has been found that foods, toxins, allergies or lack of  
14 vitamins play a role in developing the disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Current research indicates that there is a genetic  
16 predisposition to JIA; and

17 WHEREAS, Researchers believe that a trigger, such as a virus,

1 can initiate JIA in a child who has the genetic tendency; and

2 WHEREAS, Systemic JIA, oligoarticular JIA, polyarticular JIA,  
3 juvenile psoriatic arthritis, enthesitis-related JIA and  
4 undifferentiated arthritis are the six subtypes of JIA; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 300,000 children in the United States have  
6 some form of arthritis; and

7 WHEREAS, Typical symptoms of arthritis include limping,  
8 stiffness when awakening, reluctance to use an arm or leg,  
9 reduced activity level, persistent fever, joint swelling and  
10 difficulty with fine motor skills; and

11 WHEREAS, Most children with arthritis can expect to live  
12 normal lives and some even have their arthritis go into  
13 remission; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a small number of specialists who treat  
15 JIA, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a leader in  
16 the field; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the American College of Rheumatology,  
18 the best care for a child who has JIA is provided by a pediatric  
19 rheumatology team that has extensive experience and can diagnose  
20 and manage their complex needs; and

21 WHEREAS, A pediatric rheumatology team may consist of a  
22 pediatric rheumatologist, a physical therapist, an occupational  
23 therapist, a social worker and a nurse specialist who coordinate  
24 care with other health professionals and school and community  
25 officials; and

26 WHEREAS, The overall treatment goal for a child who has JIA  
27 is to control the symptoms, prevent joint damage and maintain  
28 function; and

29 WHEREAS, Medications, including steroids, disease-modifying  
30 drugs and biologics, along with physical and occupational

1 therapy, are used to treat JIA; and

2 WHEREAS, Parents and caregivers of children who have JIA  
3 should be familiar with 29 U.S.C. Ch. 16, which may provide for  
4 special accommodations at school; and

5 WHEREAS, Children who have JIA may be eligible for assistance  
6 through services provided by State agencies; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
8 month of July 2025 as "Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month" in  
9 Pennsylvania.