

House of Representatives



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

In the House, October 30, 2019

Whereas, In 1878, German medical scientist Paul Ehrlich is credited with determining that mast cells were a unique category of cells; and

Whereas, While the term mast cell continues to be used to describe these cells well into the 21st century, the understanding of the functioning and pathology of these cells has continued to evolve since their discovery, as these cells are now recognized for the critical role that they play in the healthy functioning of the human immune system; and

Whereas, Mast cells are scattered throughout the body in connective tissues, especially beneath the surface of the skin, near blood vessels and lymphatic vessels, within nerves, throughout the respiratory system and in the digestive and urinary tracts; and

Whereas, Healthy mast cells detect stress, injury, toxins or infection and release specific chemicals called mediators which trigger a response; and

Whereas, Mast cells serve a protective role for our bodies and are intimately involved in wound healing, angiogenesis, immune tolerance, defense against pathogens and blood-brain barrier function; and

Whereas, In certain individuals, mast cells become agitated or overactive and start to accumulate or cause the immune system to malfunction, commonly referred to as mast cell disease, but it includes a host of disorders relative to improperly functioning mast cells; and

Whereas, These disorders include mastocytosis, which is the abnormal accumulation of mast cells in organs and mast cell activation syndrome, which involves the inappropriate release of mast cell mediators; and

Whereas, Mast cell diseases can cause tremendous suffering and disability due to symptoms arising from infiltration and accumulation of mast cells in major organ systems or symptomatology from daily mast cell mediator release; and

Whereas, In recognition of the need to increase awareness of mast cell diseases, the first "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" was observed in 2018 as a result of a collaborative effort from a host of advocacy groups involved with various mast cell disorders; and

Whereas, "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" aims to raise the awareness of this family of diseases that ranges from life-threatening forms to more benign forms and the need for more accurate diagnostics, better treatments and further investments in research; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognize October 20, 2019, as "Mast Cell Diseases Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 565, introduced by Jim Briggs, Lynda Schlegel Culver, Ryan A. Bizzarro, Jim Hennessey, Mark Longietti, Francis X. Ryan, William C. Kortz, II, Stephen Kinsey, Thomas R. Caltagirone, Patrick J. Harkins, Robert Freeman, David R. Millard, Carol Hill-Evans, Harry Readshaw, Frank Burns, Gene DiGirolamo, David H. Zimmerman and Thomas P. Murt.



Mike Turzai
Mike Turzai, Speaker