



SPONSOR: Rep. Baumbach on behalf of all Representatives
Sen. Poore on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

DESIGNATING MARCH 22, 2017, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000
2 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

3 WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect
4 almost 30 million Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives
6 of those affected; and

7 WHEREAS, while more than 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases
8 according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no
9 approved treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay,
11 difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

12 WHEREAS, while the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as "Lou Gehrig's disease" and sympathetic
13 to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of
14 funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and

15 WHEREAS, thousands of Delaware residents are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 10
16 Americans have rare diseases; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) organized a nationwide observance of "Rare
18 Disease Day" on February 28, 2017; and

19 WHEREAS, thousands of patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing
20 orphan products to treat people with rare diseases, and others in the State of Delaware will participate in that observance.

21 NOW, THEREFORE:

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
23 Senate concurring therein, that March 22, 2017, shall be recognized as "Rare Disease Day" in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution recognizes March 22, 2017, as “Rare Disease Day” in Delaware.