



SPONSOR: Sen. Hocker & Sen. Cloutier & Rep. Gray  
Sens. Delcollo, Ennis, Hansen, Lawson, McBride,  
Pettyjohn, Richardson, Sokola, Townsend, Wilson; Reps.  
Baumbach, Briggs King, Carson, Kowalko

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2019, AS AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, autoimmune diseases are caused when your body's immune system attacks your healthy tissues and  
2 are chronic, disabling diseases in which underlying defects in the immune system lead the body to attack its own organs  
3 and tissues; and

4 WHEREAS, autoimmune diseases can affect any part of the body, including the blood, blood vessels, muscles,  
5 nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, and multiple-organ systems, and can be life threatening; and

6 WHEREAS, there are more than 80 types of autoimmune diseases and many of them share similar symptoms;  
7 some diseases carry an increased likelihood of people having an additional or multiple autoimmune diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates autoimmune diseases are among the most prevalent  
9 diseases in the U.S., affecting more than 23.5 million Americans and that the prevalence is rising; and

10 WHEREAS, according to NIH, autoimmune disease is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in female children  
11 and women in all age groups up to 64 years of age; and

12 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine reports that the United States is behind other countries in research into  
13 immune system self-recognition, the process involved in autoimmune disease; and

14 WHEREAS, diagnostic testing for most autoimmune diseases are not standardized, making autoimmune disease  
15 very difficult to diagnose; and

16 WHEREAS, NIH estimates annual direct health care costs for autoimmune disease to be in the range of \$100  
17 billion; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a significant need for research focusing on the etiology of all autoimmune-related diseases, in  
19 order to increase understanding of the root causes of these diseases rather than treating the systems after the disease has  
20 already had its destructive effect; and

21 WHEREAS, designating November 2019 as "Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month" in Delaware would help  
22 educate the public about autoimmune diseases and the need for research funding, accurate diagnosis, and effective  
23 treatments.

24 NOW THEREFORE:

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
26 Representatives concurring therein, that November 2019, is recognized as Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month in  
27 Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes November 2019, as Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month in Delaware.

Author: Senator Hocker