

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 340 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, TOOHL, BAKER, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON, CORR, D. COSTA, DiGIROLAMO, DUSH, EVERETT, HEFFLEY, HELM, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KAUFFMAN, KIM, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO, McNEILL, MILLARD, MILNE, NEILSON, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROZZI, SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, TOEPEL, WARD, WARREN AND WHEELAND, MAY 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Healthy Babies Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes educates women of childbearing  
4 age and their partners about the importance of preconception and  
5 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle to enhance  
6 positive birth outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age should take steps before  
8 and during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, including  
9 adopting a healthy lifestyle that includes moderate exercise and  
10 a balanced diet and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol,  
11 illegal drugs and certain medications that may harm a developing  
12 fetus; and

13 WHEREAS, Consuming 400 micrograms of folic acid daily for  
14 three months prior to and during the early weeks of conception  
15 may prevent up to 70% of neural tube defects, including birth

1 defects of the brain and spinal cord; and

2 WHEREAS, Though 84% of women 18 to 45 years of age who were  
3 surveyed had heard of folic acid, only 19% knew to take folic  
4 acid before pregnancy; and

5 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2015, 16.9% of women 18 to 44  
6 years of age reported binge drinking during pregnancy, which can  
7 cause birth defects and intellectual and developmental  
8 disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2015, 22.4% of women 18 to 44  
10 years of age reported smoking and 12.6% of pregnant women  
11 reported smoking in the last three months of pregnancy, which  
12 may contribute to preterm birth and low birth weight; and

13 WHEREAS, Early and regular preconception and prenatal care is  
14 the first line of defense for protecting pregnant women and  
15 their infants; and

16 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2015, 6.6% of infants, or  
17 approximately 1 in 15, were born to women receiving no prenatal  
18 care or late prenatal care beginning in the seventh to ninth  
19 month of pregnancy; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
21 month of May 2017 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania; and  
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge parents and  
24 prospective parents to contact the March of Dimes and allied  
25 health care organizations for literature on how to prepare  
26 themselves before conception and during pregnancy.