
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 656 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HARHART, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, V. BROWN,
BULLOCK, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,
DUSH, EVERETT, FARINA, FREEMAN, GROVE, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY,
PHILLIPS-HILL, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KIM, KINSEY, KNOWLES,
LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT,
MUSTIO, O'BRIEN, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT,
READSHAW, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, SONNEY, THOMAS,
TOOHIL, VEREB, WARD, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 25, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 25, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2016 as "Cervical Cancer
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of
4 cancer deaths among women worldwide; and

5 WHEREAS, Human papillomavirus is a primary cause of cervical
6 cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 5 million people acquire human
8 papillomavirus, which is linked to cervical cancer in high-risk
9 cases; and

10 WHEREAS, With regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer
11 is highly preventable; and

12 WHEREAS, Widespread screening has reduced death rates from
13 cervical cancer, but women are still dying despite advanced
14 medical techniques and evaluative procedures; and

1 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer rates in the United States are
2 affected by education, access to regular cervical cancer
3 screening and screening accuracy; and

4 WHEREAS, Experience shows that increasing cervical cancer
5 awareness among women, especially underserved women,
6 significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

7 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority
8 women and women with lower incomes who are less likely to have
9 access to routine screening; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately half of all cervical cancer cases are
11 in women who have never been screened and 10% of cases are in
12 women who have not been screened within the last five years; and

13 WHEREAS, The median age of cervical cancer patients at
14 diagnosis is 47 years of age which is the youngest median age
15 for all female reproductive cancers; and

16 WHEREAS, New screening technologies offer new opportunities
17 to finally eliminate cervical cancer through early
18 identification of women at increased risk; and

19 WHEREAS, These technologies include testing approved by the
20 Food and Drug Administration for human papillomavirus, the cause
21 of virtually all cervical cancers; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration has
23 approved a vaccine for human papillomavirus, for both females
24 and males, with recommended inoculation beginning at 9 years of
25 age to 26 years of age, which prevents infection by four strains
26 of human papillomavirus to prevent most cases of cervical
27 cancer; and

28 WHEREAS, The National Immunization Program of the Centers for
29 Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on
30 Immunization Practices have jointly recommended the use of the

1 human papillomavirus vaccine for adolescents and young adults,
2 both female and male, between 11 and 26 years of age; and

3 WHEREAS, Women are entitled to appropriate information
4 relating to cervical cancer so they may make informed health
5 care decisions and may access accurate screening and
6 vaccination; and

7 WHEREAS, Women in Pennsylvania between 40 and 64 years of age
8 who are uninsured may be eligible for free screening for
9 cervical cancer through the Department of Health's Healthy Woman
10 Program; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Health reports that in 2008-2009,
12 6,606 women were screened for cervical cancer through the
13 Healthy Woman Program and 207 women were found to have cervical
14 dysplasia or cervical cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Women in Pennsylvania under 65 years of age who are
16 uninsured and in need of treatment for cervical cancer or a
17 precancerous condition of the cervix may be eligible for full
18 health care benefits through the Breast and Cervical Cancer
19 Prevention and Treatment Program of the Department of Human
20 Services; and

21 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes that through education
22 and screening, women can decrease their likelihood of developing
23 cervical cancer, and that with early detection, cervical cancer
24 can be successfully treated; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 month of January 2016 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in
27 Pennsylvania to increase awareness, on the part of women,
28 families, health care providers and policymakers, of the risks,
29 prevalence and treatability of cervical cancer and the
30 importance of early access to accurate screening.