

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 229 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, BROWN, BELFANTI, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, McILVAINE SMITH, MILLARD, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, R. TAYLOR, VULAKOVICH, WATERS, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 15, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 15, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Health to prepare and distribute
2 educational information about premature infants' risks and
3 health care needs.

4 WHEREAS, In 2005, one in eight babies was born preterm in
5 this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Between 1995 and 2005, the rate of infants born
7 preterm in this Commonwealth increased more than 12%; and

8 WHEREAS, Between 1995 and 2005, the rate of preterm births in
9 this Commonwealth was highest for African-American infants at
10 16.8%, followed by Native Americans at 15%, Hispanics at 13.2%,
11 Caucasians at 10.7% and Asians at 9.5%; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005, the annual societal medical, educational
13 and lost productivity costs associated with preterm births in
14 the United States was at least \$26.2 billion; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
16 Department of Health to prepare and distribute educational

1 information about premature infants' risks and health care
2 needs; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health include the following
4 information in the publications:

5 (1) The unique health issues affecting infants born
6 premature such as increased risk of developmental problems,
7 nutritional challenges, infection, chronic lung disease
8 (bronchopulmonary dysplasia), vision and hearing impairment,
9 breathing problems, feeding, maintaining body temperature,
10 jaundice, hyperactivity and infant mortality, as well as
11 long-term complications associated with growth and nutrition,
12 respiratory problems, fine motor skills, reading, writing,
13 mathematics and speaking.

14 (2) The proper care needs of premature infants,
15 developmental screenings and monitoring and health care
16 services available to premature infants through the Medicaid
17 program and other public or private health programs.

18 (3) Methods, vaccines and other preventative measures to
19 protect premature infants from infectious diseases, including
20 viral respiratory infections.

21 (4) The emotional and financial burdens and other
22 challenges that parents and family members of premature
23 infants experience and information about community resources
24 available to support them;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health make these
27 publications available to children's health providers, maternal
28 care providers, hospitals, public health departments and medical
29 organizations and encourage those organizations to provide the
30 publications to parents or guardians of premature infants.