
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, QUINN, HENNESSEY, REED, REICHLEY,
MICOZZIE, ADOLPH, BAKER, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOYD,
BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, CONKLIN, DALEY,
DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, D. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK,
GEIST, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HESS, JOHNSON,
KILLION, KULA, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO,
MENSCH, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL,
PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW, ROSS,
SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN,
TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER AND WATERS, APRIL 28, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL
28, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2009 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania and urging prospective parents to be informed
3 about prenatal care.

4 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2009 to be
5 "Healthy Babies Month" in order to educate men and women of
6 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and
7 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle in order to
8 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the most recently released data of the
10 National Center for Health Statistics, in 2006, 17,559 babies
11 were born prematurely in this Commonwealth, accounting for more
12 than 11.8% of live births in 2004; and

13 WHEREAS, The rate of premature births in this Commonwealth
14 has increased more than 10% in the last decade; and

1 WHEREAS, The rate of preterm birth, by race, is highest among
2 African Americans (17%), Native Americans (14.7%), Hispanics
3 (13.2%), whites (10.8%) and Asians (9.6%); and

4 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, premature birth with
5 accompanying low birthweight is the second leading cause of
6 infant death (death in the first year of life) and the leading
7 cause of newborn death (death in the first month of life); and

8 WHEREAS, Prematurity is the number one obstetric problem in
9 our nation, with 1 in 8 babies, including 1 in 6 African-
10 American babies, born prematurely; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2006, about 1 in 15 infants (6.6% of live births)
12 were born to women receiving late or no prenatal care in
13 Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, Early, regular preconception and prenatal care is a
15 pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her baby;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Recommendations for a healthy pregnancy include
18 prevention of infections such as rubella, not using prescription
19 or over-the-counter medications without approval of a doctor and
20 avoiding tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances; therefore be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
23 month of May 2009 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania; and
24 be it further

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