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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 402      Session of  
1997

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWARTZ, WILLIAMS, STOUT, AFFLERBACH, O'PAKE,  
HUGHES AND MELLOW, FEBRUARY 7, 1997

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 7, 1997

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AN ACT

1 Providing for grants to conduct women's health education  
2 programs; imposing powers and duties upon the Department of  
3 Health; and making an appropriation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Women's  
8 Health Education Act.

9 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) Education in preventive health care can lead to  
12 diseases being prevented or treated in their early stages  
13 when it is less expensive and there is a much better chance  
14 of recovery.

15 (2) Women's health care has received little attention  
16 both in terms of funding and research priorities. The  
17 National Institute of Health spends only 13% of its budget on  
18 women's health issues.

1           (3) Periodic screening mammography, in conjunction with  
2           good health care and monthly self-examination, can reduce a  
3           woman's risk of dying from breast cancer by 30%.

4           (4) Women who have heart attacks are twice as likely as  
5           men to die from them within the first weeks after the heart  
6           attack.

7           (5) The incidence of cervical cancer has increased since  
8           1985. In 1989, 658 cases of cervical cancer were reported,  
9           and 212 women died of cervical cancer.

10          (6) Annual medical costs related to osteoporosis reach  
11          \$10,000,000,000 nationally. Eighty percent of those diagnosed  
12          with osteoporosis are women.

13          (7) Chlamydia and other sexually transmitted diseases  
14          create significant medical problems and costs for women. The  
15          Commonwealth's chlamydia treatment program saves \$8.25 in  
16          medical costs for every dollar invested.

17          (8) In 1990, 3.5% of the mothers in this Commonwealth  
18          received no prenatal care until their third trimester. Every  
19          \$1 spent on prenatal care saves \$3.28 in the cost of caring  
20          for low birth weight babies.

### 21 Section 3. Definitions.

22          The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
23          have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
24          context clearly indicates otherwise:

25          "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

26          "Eligible provider." Any qualified local government entity  
27          or qualified private nonprofit corporation, as determined by  
28          regulations of the Department of Health.

### 29 Section 4. Grants.

30          From money appropriated, the department shall make grants to

1 eligible providers to develop women's health education programs  
2 that address the following women's health topics:

- 3 (1) Breast cancer detection.
- 4 (2) Cervical cancer prevention and detection.
- 5 (3) Osteoporosis prevention.
- 6 (4) Heart disease prevention.
- 7 (5) Nutrition and exercise as related to disease  
8 prevention.
- 9 (6) Contraception.
- 10 (7) Sexually transmitted disease prevention.
- 11 (8) Prenatal care.

12 Section 5. Program elements.

13 Women's health education programs funded under this act must  
14 include the following program elements:

15 (1) The development and distribution of pamphlets and  
16 other written materials addressing women's health issues  
17 listed in section 4. Written materials must be appropriate to  
18 different age groups, non-English-speaking populations,  
19 uninsured women and varying literacy levels and must take  
20 into account cultural and racial differences.

21 (2) The development and implementation of outreach  
22 efforts to educate the public on the women's health issues  
23 listed in section 4. The efforts include seminars and  
24 workshops, radio and television advertising, information  
25 booths at appropriate public places and door-to-door  
26 canvassing. Outreach efforts must be appropriate to different  
27 age groups, non-English-speaking populations, uninsured women  
28 and varying literacy levels and must take into account  
29 cultural and racial differences.

30 (3) The development and implementation of seminars,

workshops or other mechanisms to educate health care professionals on the women's health care issues listed in section 4.

Section 6. Regulations.

The department shall promulgate regulations to administer this act.

Section 7. Report to General Assembly.

The department shall annually report to the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the Health and Welfare Committee of the House of Representatives on the women's health education activities funded under this act. The department's report shall include examples of written materials developed, descriptions and summaries of outreach activities, descriptions and summaries of the mechanisms to educate health care professionals and data on the number of individuals educated on women's health.

Section 8. Appropriation.

The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Health to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 9. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.