

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 21

Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY HARHART, BARRAR, BEYER, BIANCUCCI, BISHOP,  
BLACKWELL, BOYD, BUXTON, CAUSER, COHEN, CREIGHTON, DALLY,  
DePASQUALE, DIGIROLAMO, ELLIS, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, GEIST,  
GEORGE, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HERSHEY, KENNEY, KILLION, KOTIK,  
MANDERINO, MANN, MANTZ, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, McGEEHAN,  
McILHATTAN, MILLARD, MOYER, MUNDY, MUSTIO, NAILOR, PALLONE,  
PEIFER, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, RAPP, READSHAW,  
REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO,  
SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STABACK, STAIRS, STERN,  
R. STEVENSON, SURRA, J. TAYLOR, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, WALKO,  
WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, FREEMAN, WATSON, GILLESPIE, ADOLPH,  
BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, GINGRICH, MACKERETH, MAJOR,  
M. O'BRIEN, GOODMAN, VEREB, PERRY AND DeLUCA,  
JANUARY 29, 2007

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 29, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of January 21 through 27, 2007, as  
2 "Cervical Cancer Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimated that in 2006,  
4 9,710 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than  
5 3,700 died of the disease in the United States; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Human papillomavirus is a primary cause of cervical  
9 cancer; and

10 WHEREAS, Each year more than 5 million people acquire human  
11 papillomavirus, which is linked to cervical cancer in high-risk

1 cases; and

2 WHEREAS, With regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer  
3 is highly preventable; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer rates in the United States are  
8 affected by education, access to regular cervical cancer  
9 screening and screening accuracy; and

10 WHEREAS, Experience shows that increasing cervical cancer  
11 awareness among women, especially underserved women,  
12 significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

13 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority  
14 women and women with lower incomes who are less likely to have  
15 access to routine screening; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The median age of cervical cancer patients at  
20 diagnosis is 47 years, the youngest median age for all female  
21 reproductive cancers; and

22 WHEREAS, New screening technologies offer new opportunities  
23 to finally eliminate cervical cancer through early  
24 identification of women at increased risk; and

25 WHEREAS, These technologies include testing approved by the  
26 Food and Drug Administration for human papillomavirus, the cause  
27 of virtually all cervical cancers; and

28 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration has  
29 approved a vaccine for human papillomavirus for females 9 to 26  
30 years of age which prevents infection by four major types of

1 human papillomavirus and prevents most cases of cervical cancer;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The National Immunization Program of the Centers for  
4 Disease Control and Prevention and the Federal Advisory  
5 Committee on Immunization Practices have jointly recommended the  
6 use of the human papillomavirus vaccine; and

7 WHEREAS, Women are entitled to appropriate information  
8 relating to cervical cancer so they may make informed health  
9 care decisions and may access accurate screening and  
10 vaccination; and

11 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes that, through education  
12 and screening, women can decrease their likelihood of developing  
13 cervical cancer and that, with early detection, cervical cancer  
14 can be successfully treated; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
16 week of January 21 through 27, 2007, as "Cervical Cancer  
17 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania to increase awareness on the  
18 part of women, families, health care providers and policymakers  
19 of the risks, prevalence and treatability of cervical cancer and  
20 the importance of early access to accurate screening.