

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 248 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, WAGNER, QUINN, DIGIROLAMO, PETRI, BAKER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CUTLER, DAY, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GERBER, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HAHN, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MOUL, MULLERY, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PYLE, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, REED, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SCHRODER, K. SMITH, STABACK, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 27, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 27, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2011 as "Healthy Babies Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2011 to be  
4 "Healthy Babies Month" in order to educate men and women of  
5 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and  
6 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle in order to  
7 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age can take steps before and  
9 during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, including adopting a  
10 healthy lifestyle of moderate exercise and a healthy diet,  
11 reducing stress and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol,  
12 illegal drugs and some medications that can harm a developing  
13 fetus; and

1 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2009, 17.6% of women ages 18 to  
2 44 reported binge drinking in the past month, compared to 15.7%  
3 overall in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Drinking alcohol during pregnancy, and particularly  
5 binge drinking, can cause birth defects and mental retardation;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2009, 23.47% of women ages 18 to  
8 44 reported smoking, compared to 19.6% overall in the United  
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, Smoking is an important determinant of health status  
11 and a major contributor to prematurity and low birth weight; and

12 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of neural tube defects, which are birth  
13 defects of the brain and spinal cord, may be prevented if women  
14 consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to and during  
15 the early weeks of conception; and

16 WHEREAS, Eighty-four percent of women ages 18 to 45 surveyed  
17 in 2008 had heard of folic acid, but only 39% of these women  
18 reported taking a multivitamin with folic acid daily; and

19 WHEREAS, Early and regular preconception and prenatal care is  
20 a pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her  
21 baby; and

22 WHEREAS, Recommendations for a healthy pregnancy include  
23 prevention of infections such as rubella, not using prescription  
24 or over-the-counter medications without approval of a doctor and  
25 avoiding tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances; therefore be  
26 it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
28 month of May 2011 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and  
29 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of  
30 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how

1 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.