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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 15 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, JANUARY 28, 2013

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JANUARY 28, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2013 as "Cervical Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, During the month of January there is a national  
4 focus on cervical cancer in order to increase public  
5 understanding of the disease, including its prevalence,  
6 approaches to screening and prevention, treatment options and  
7 resources that offer information about it; and

8 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that more than  
9 12,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year,  
10 and 4,000 or more will die from it; and

11 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer affects the cervix, the part of the  
12 body that connects the uterus (or womb) to the vagina (or birth  
13 canal); and

14 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer develops very slowly, with half of  
15 women diagnosed being between 35 and 55 years of age, and  
16 approximately one in five is diagnosed after the age of 65; and

17 WHEREAS, The highest rates of occurrence are among Latina and  
18 women of African-American descent; and

1 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 20 million Americans carry the  
2 Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted  
3 virus that leads to cervical cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, Periodic Pap tests are recommended to detect  
5 precancerous and cancerous cervical cells for women 21 years of  
6 age and older, and a HPV vaccination is recommended for younger  
7 women as early as age nine; and

8 WHEREAS, Regular cervical cancer screening can usually be  
9 performed simply as part of a regular physical exam with a Pap  
10 smear, one of the most reliable and effective cancer screening  
11 tests available; and

12 WHEREAS, The majority of women diagnosed with cervical cancer  
13 have not had regular Pap smears or have not followed up on  
14 abnormal Pap smear results; and

15 WHEREAS, Other risk factors associated with cervical cancer  
16 are smoking, long-term use of birth control pills and having  
17 three or more children; and

18 WHEREAS, Medical advances have made cervical cancer, once the  
19 second leading cause of death for women, today a preventable  
20 disease with a very high rate of cure when detected early;  
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of January 2013  
23 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.