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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

**MEMO**

**FEB 14 2012**

**DATE:** February 13, 2012  
**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Senator Bob Mensch *BHM*  
**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship #11 - Preeclampsia Awareness Month Resolution

I am introducing a resolution declaring May 2012 as Preeclampsia Awareness Month.

Preeclampsia is one of the most common complications of pregnancy, with estimates ranging from 5% to 8% of all pregnancies, and is one of the leading known causes of premature birth. Every year, almost 300,000 pregnancies in the U.S. are complicated by preeclampsia with approximately 25% of those reaching severe or critical status. Worldwide estimates suggest that 76,000 women and 500,000 babies die annually because of preeclampsia. Each week, one woman dies in the United States due to preeclampsia.

My resolution will join the efforts of the Preeclampsia Foundation, a U.S.-based non-profit organization established in the year 2000, which aims to fund and drive research, raise public and professional awareness, and provide support and education for those whose lives have been touched by preeclampsia, HELLP Syndrome, and other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Its mission is to stop preventable death and disability of mothers and babies by eliminating delays in diagnosis, implementing the best known practices, developing new practices, and helping women and their families through the impact of Preeclampsia.

The resolution will also acknowledge the Preeclampsia Foundation's 8th annual nationwide walk event – "The Promise Walk for Preeclampsia" - which will be held in more than 25 cities across North America, including three Pennsylvania sites in May - Easton, Philadelphia and Erie.

If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please call my office at (717) 787-3110 or email [gsarfert@pasen.gov](mailto:gsarfert@pasen.gov).

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