

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 167 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY E. Z. TAYLOR, TRUE, FLEAGLE, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CAWLEY, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FLICK, FORCIER, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GOOD, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, W. KELLER, KENNEY, KILLION, LEACH, MAHER, MAITLAND, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, MCGILL, MCILHATTAN, METCALFE, MICOZZIE, MUNDY, MUSTIO, NAILOR, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, SHAPIRO, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TIGUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATSON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, ZUG AND S. MILLER, MARCH 24, 2005

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 24, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2005 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2005 as "Healthy
4 Babies Month" in order to educate men and women of childbearing
5 age about the importance of preconception and prenatal care,
6 nutrition and a healthy lifestyle in order to enhance positive
7 birth outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the most recently released data of the
9 National Center for Health Statistics, in 2002, 16,253 babies
10 were born prematurely in this Commonwealth, accounting for more

1 than 11% of live births; and

2 WHEREAS, The rate of premature births in this Commonwealth
3 has increased nearly 11% in the last decade, from 10.3% in 1992
4 to 11.4% in 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth premature birth with
6 accompanying low birth weight is the second leading cause of
7 infant death (death in the first year of life) and the leading
8 cause of newborn death (death in the first month of life); and

9 WHEREAS, Prematurity is the number one obstetric problem in
10 our nation, with one out of every eight babies, including one
11 out of every six African-American babies, born prematurely; and

12 WHEREAS, Prematurity is a major medical challenge in
13 obstetrics and pediatrics and a significant determinant of
14 morbidity and mortality in infancy and throughout the lifetime of
15 babies born prematurely; and

16 WHEREAS, A recent national survey conducted by the March of
17 Dimes found that only 35% of respondents identified prematurity
18 as "very serious" or "extremely serious"; and

19 WHEREAS, Pregnant women can benefit from new knowledge,
20 skills and technology and seek diagnosis and treatment for high-
21 risk medical conditions; and

22 WHEREAS, Early, regular preconception and prenatal care is a
23 pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her baby;
24 and

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

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

1 month of May 2005 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
2 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of
3 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
4 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.