
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 723 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BOYD, HARHART, QUINN, MARSICO, VULAKOVICH, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BAKER, BEAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DePASQUALE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, JAMES, M. KELLER, KILLION, KOTIK, KULA, MACKERETH, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MANTZ, McILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MUNDY, NAILOR, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, RAMALEY, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, STERN, SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, WALKO, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, BARRAR, BASTIAN, McILHATTAN, MOYER AND MENSCH, MAY 2, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 2, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2008 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania and urging prospective parents to be informed
3 about prenatal care.

4 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2008 to be
5 "Healthy Babies Month" in order to educate men and women of
6 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and
7 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle in order to
8 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the most recently released data of the
10 National Center for Health Statistics, 16,928 babies were born
11 prematurely in this Commonwealth, accounting for more than 11.8%

1 of live births in 2004; and

2 WHEREAS, The rate of premature births in this Commonwealth
3 has increased more than 10% in the last decade; and

4 WHEREAS, The rate of preterm birth, by race, is highest among
5 African Americans (17%), Native Americans (14.2%), Hispanics
6 (13%), whites (10.5%) and Asians (9.2%); and

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

11 WHEREAS, Prematurity is the number one obstetric problem in
12 our nation, with 1 in 8 babies, including 1 in 6 African-
13 American babies, born prematurely; and

14 WHEREAS, Prematurity is a major medical challenge in
15 obstetrics and pediatrics and a significant determinant of
16 morbidity and mortality in infancy and throughout the lifetime
17 of preterm babies; and

18 WHEREAS, A recent national survey conducted by the March of
19 Dimes found that only 37% of respondents identified prematurity
20 as "very serious" or "extremely serious"; and

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

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

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

1 it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
3 month of May 2008 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge prospective
6 parents to contact the March of Dimes and allied health care
7 organizations for literature on how to prepare themselves before
8 conception and during pregnancy.