

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 785 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BAKER, CUTLER, RAPP, QUINN, PETRI, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BOYD, BRIGGS, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DALEY, DELOZIER, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GRUCELA, HELM, HESS, HICKERNELL, JOHNSON, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MICCARELLI, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, REED, REESE, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SEIP, SIPTROTH, STABACK, STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WAGNER AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 29, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 29, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2010, as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2010 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, Women of childbearing age can take steps before and
9 during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes by adopting a healthy
10 lifestyle that includes moderate exercise and a healthy diet,
11 reducing stress and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol,
12 illegal drugs and medications that can harm a developing fetus;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Another important recommendation for a healthy
3 pregnancy includes preventing infections such as rubella; and

4 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2008, 18.9% of women between the
5 ages of 18 and 44 reported binge drinking in the past month,
6 compared to 14.8% overall in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Drinking alcohol during pregnancy, particularly
8 binge drinking, can cause birth defects and mental retardation;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2008, 24.7% of women between the
11 ages of 18 and 44 reported smoking, compared to 20% overall in
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Smoking is a contributing factor in determining
14 health status and in pregnant women is a major contributor to
15 prematurity and low birth weight in babies; and

16 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of neural tube defects, birth defects of
17 the brain and spinal cord, may be prevented if women consume 400
18 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to and during the early
19 weeks of conception; and

20 WHEREAS, 84% of women between the ages of 18 and 45 surveyed
21 in 2008 had heard of folic acid, but only 11% of these women
22 knew to take folic acid before pregnancy; and

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

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 month of May 2010, as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
28 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of
29 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
30 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.