

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 85

Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, WASHINGTON, WILLIAMS, LOGAN, ERICKSON,  
BRUBAKER, DINNIMAN, PILEGGI, STACK, MUSTO, O'PAKE, ALLOWAY,  
STOUT AND FONTANA, APRIL 20, 2009

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 20, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 2009 as "National Minority Health Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human  
4 Services, Office of Minority Health (OMH) has chosen  
5 preconception health as the focus for National Minority Health  
6 Awareness Month; and

7 WHEREAS, Infant mortality rates for African-American citizens  
8 are more than double that of the United States as a whole, with  
9 more than 7,500 infant deaths per year; and

10 WHEREAS, The top three leading causes of infant deaths for  
11 African Americans are low birth weight, congenital malformation  
12 and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and many causes of infant  
13 mortality are preventable; and

14 WHEREAS, African-American mothers are 2.6 times more likely  
15 than Caucasian mothers to begin prenatal care in the third  
16 trimester or to not receive any prenatal care; and

17 WHEREAS, The OMH is launching "A Healthy Baby Begins with

1 You," a national campaign to raise awareness about infant  
2 mortality with an emphasis on the African-American community, as  
3 one of its efforts to end health disparities among minorities;  
4 therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate April 2009, as "National  
6 Minority Health Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all  
7 citizens to strongly support this day and participate in events  
8 planned to bring due attention to the importance of  
9 preconception health care and the prevention of infant  
10 mortality.