
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 523 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, BEAR, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DALEY,
EVERETT, GEORGE, GINGRICH, HARHART, HARKINS, HEFFLEY, HESS,
HORNAMAN, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MILLARD, MURT,
O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROCK, SAINATO, STERN,
STEVENSON, TOOHIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD AND DeLUCA,
DECEMBER 14, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, DECEMBER 14, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States in its health
2 care reform decisions to apply the American Cancer Society's
3 guidelines for prostate cancer screening.

4 WHEREAS, The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)
5 acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed
6 nonskin cancer in men in the United States, with a lifetime risk
7 of diagnosis currently estimated at 15.9%; and

8 WHEREAS, Prostate cancer can often be found early by testing
9 the amount of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) through a blood
10 test; and

11 WHEREAS, There are limits to the PSA test, which is not 100%
12 accurate; and

13 WHEREAS, Because of an elevated PSA level, some men may be
14 diagnosed with a prostate cancer that would never have led to
15 their death or even caused any symptoms; and

16 WHEREAS, Treatments for prostate cancer can have side effects

1 that may seriously affect a man's quality of life; and

2 WHEREAS, The USPSTF recommends against PSA-based screening
3 for prostate cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5 reports that prostate cancer is the most common cancer among
6 American men and is the second-leading cause of cancer death
7 among American men, behind only lung cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute estimates that
9 approximately 240,890 new cases of prostate cancer will be
10 diagnosed and approximately 33,720 men will die of prostate
11 cancer in 2011 in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that
13 in 2008, 10,098 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, the
14 largest number of all cancer cases diagnosed in men in
15 Pennsylvania (26.5%), which was responsible for the deaths of
16 1,451 men; and

17 WHEREAS, The goal of screening for prostate cancer is to find
18 it early so that it can be treated more effectively; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute reports that prostate
20 cancer incident rates rose in the late 1980s when screening with
21 the PSA came into wide use; and

22 WHEREAS, Since the early 1990s, the incidence of prostate
23 cancer and deaths from prostate cancer have been declining; and

24 WHEREAS, The Prostate Cancer Foundation supports continued
25 routine PSA screening of informed patients; and

26 WHEREAS, The American Urological Association strongly opposes
27 the recommendations of the USPSTF, supports the use of PSA
28 screening and urges men to speak with their physicians about the
29 value of prostate cancer testing; and

30 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends that men

1 should have a discussion with their health care providers in
2 order to make an informed decision about whether to be screened
3 for prostate cancer; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the
5 Congress of the United States in its health care reform
6 decisions to apply the American Cancer Society's guidelines for
7 prostate cancer, which specify that the discussion between a man
8 and his health care provider regarding prostate cancer screening
9 should take place between the ages of 40 and 50 based on the
10 individual's level of risk and family history of prostate
11 cancer.