

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, TOOHL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD, DeLUCA, GIBBONS, GILLESPIE, BRADFORD AND MYERS, DECEMBER 14, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 30, 2012

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~~ TO SEEK THE  
4 WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK  
5 FORCE RECOMMENDATION AGAINST PROSTATE-SPECIFIC ANTIGEN-BASED  
6 SCREENING FOR PROSTATE CANCER FOR MEN IN ALL AGE GROUPS.

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
8 acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed  
9 ~~nonskin~~ NON-SKIN cancer in men in the United States, with a ←  
10 lifetime risk of diagnosis currently estimated at 15.9%; and

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

14 ~~WHEREAS, There are limits to the PSA test, which is not 100%~~ ←  
15 ~~accurate; and~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, Because of an elevated PSA level, some men may be~~  
17 ~~diagnosed with a prostate cancer that would never have led to~~

1 ~~their death or even caused any symptoms; and~~

2 ~~WHEREAS, Treatments for prostate cancer can have side effects~~  
3 ~~that may seriously affect a man's quality of life; and~~

4 ~~WHEREAS, The USPSTF recommends against PSA based screening~~  
5 ~~for prostate cancer; and~~

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

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

14 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that  
15 in 2008, 10,098 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer, the  
16 largest number of all cancer cases diagnosed in men in  
17 Pennsylvania (26.5%), which was responsible for the deaths of  
18 1,451 men; and

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

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

24 ~~WHEREAS, Since the early 1990s, the incidence of prostate~~  
25 ~~cancer and deaths from prostate cancer have been declining; and~~

26 WHEREAS, IN OCTOBER 2011, THE USPSTF ISSUED A RECOMMENDATION ←  
27 AGAINST PSA SCREENING FOR PROSTATE CANCER FOR MEN IN ALL AGE  
28 GROUPS BECAUSE IT CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS MODERATE OR HIGH  
29 CERTAINTY THAT THE SERVICE HAS NO NET BENEFIT OR THAT THE HARMS  
30 OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS; AND

1       WHEREAS, THE USPSTF STATES THAT THE OCTOBER 2011  
2 RECOMMENDATION APPLIES TO MEN IN THE UNITED STATES WHO DO NOT  
3 HAVE SYMPTOMS OF PROSTATE CANCER, EVEN THOUGH BY THE TIME A MAN  
4 EXPERIENCES SYMPTOMS OF PROSTATE CANCER, THE CANCER IS GENERALLY  
5 TOO ADVANCED TO CURE; AND

6       WHEREAS, THE USPSTF STATES THAT ITS NEW RECOMMENDATION  
7 AGAINST SCREENING APPLIES REGARDLESS OF RACE, EVEN THOUGH THE  
8 USPSTF ACKNOWLEDGES THAT AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN HAVE A  
9 SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER PROSTATE CANCER INCIDENCE RATE THAN WHITE  
10 MEN AND MORE THAN TWICE THE PROSTATE CANCER MORTALITY RATE OF  
11 WHITE MEN; AND

12       WHEREAS, AT THE TIME THE USPSTF ISSUED ITS RECOMMENDATION IN  
13 OCTOBER 2011, THE MOST RECENTLY UPDATED STUDY, THE GÖTEBORG  
14 RANDOMIZED POPULATION-BASED PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING TRIAL, HAD  
15 FOUND THAT, WITH SCREENING, DEATHS FROM PROSTATE CANCER DROPPED  
16 44% OVER A 14-YEAR PERIOD, COMPARED WITH MEN WHO DID NOT UNDERGO  
17 SCREENING AND THAT PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING EFFICIENCY WAS  
18 SIMILAR TO OTHER CANCERS; AND

19       WHEREAS, A STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF  
20 MEDICINE IN MARCH 2012 ENTITLED "PROSTATE-CANCER MORTALITY AT 11  
21 YEARS OF FOLLOW-UP" REVEALED THAT PSA SCREENING WAS SHOWN TO  
22 REDUCE THE MORTALITY OF PROSTATE CANCER BY 29%; AND

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

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

29       ~~WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society recommends that men~~  
30 ~~should have a discussion with their health care providers in~~



1 ~~order to make an informed decision about whether to be screened~~  
2 ~~for prostate cancer; therefore be it~~

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

11 WHEREAS, THE USPSTF RECOMMENDATION AGAINST SCREENING PUTS  
12 INTO HARM'S WAY MEN WHO ARE MOST AT RISK: THE UNDERINSURED,  
13 THOSE WHO LIVE IN AREAS WHERE HEALTH CARE IS NOT READILY  
14 AVAILABLE, THOSE WHO HAVE A FAMILY HISTORY OF PROSTATE CANCER  
15 AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN; THEREFORE BE IT

16 RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMORIALIZE THE  
17 CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S.  
18 PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION AGAINST PSA  
19 SCREENING FOR MEN IN ALL AGE GROUPS.

