
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 847 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, DONATUCCI, BOBACK, EVERETT, BENNINGHOFF,
ROSS, BAKER, BISHOP, R. BROWN, BROWNLIE, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER,
COHEN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, CUTLER, DAVIS, DeLUCA,
DiGIROLAMO, ENGLISH, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GIBBONS,
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HARHART, J. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, KILLION,
KIM, KINSEY, KORTZ, LUCAS, MAJOR, MALONEY, McNEILL, MILLARD,
MIRABITO, MURT, OBERLANDER, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROCK,
SCHLOSSBERG, SNYDER, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, THOMAS, VEREB,
YOUNGBLOOD AND MAHONEY, MAY 5, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 5, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2014 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2014 to be
4 Healthy Babies Month in order to educate men and women of
5 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and
6 prenatal care, nutrition and healthy lifestyle in order to
7 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age should take steps before
9 and during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, including
10 adopting a healthy lifestyle that includes moderate exercise, a
11 balanced diet and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol, illegal
12 drugs and certain medications that may harm a developing fetus;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of neural tube defects, which are birth

1 defects of the brain and spinal cord, may be prevented if women
2 consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to and during
3 the early weeks of conception; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2012, 20.7% of women between 18 and 44 years of
5 age in Pennsylvania reported binge drinking in the prior month,
6 compared to 17.4% of women nationwide; and

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

10 WHEREAS, In 2012, 26.1% of women between 18 and 44 years of
11 age in Pennsylvania reported smoking, compared to 20.8% of women
12 nationwide;

13 WHEREAS, Smoking is an important determinant of health status
14 of the fetus and a major contributor to prematurity and low
15 birth weight; and

16 WHEREAS, Early and regular preconception and prenatal care is
17 a pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her
18 baby; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2011 in Pennsylvania, 6.6% of infants,
20 approximately 1 in 15 infants, were born to women who received
21 no prenatal care or who received late prenatal care beginning in
22 the third trimester; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 month of May 2014 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
25 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of
26 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
27 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.