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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 10 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HARHART, BISHOP, COHEN, VEREB, MUSTIO, GRELL,  
CUTLER, BOBACK, KNOWLES, SONNEY, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN,  
MACKENZIE, BAKER, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, MILLARD, KILLION,  
DIGIROLAMO, CORBIN, READSHAW, DUSH, FREEMAN, KAUFFMAN,  
CAUSER, FRANKEL, CALTAGIRONE, BARRAR, SCHWEYER, BIZZARRO,  
KINSEY, C. PARKER, J. HARRIS, McNEILL, KIM, DAVIDSON,  
O'BRIEN, EMRICK, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, O'NEILL, D. COSTA,  
WATSON, GOODMAN, DEASY, PICKETT, LONGIETTI, GROVE, MARSICO,  
KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, DeLUCA, CONKLIN, HAHN, MURT, GABLER,  
PETRI, DELOZIER, ROSS, OBERLANDER, MAJOR, GILLEN, DONATUCCI  
AND McCARTER, JANUARY 21, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 21, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2015 as "Cervical Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer is the second leading cause of  
4 cancer deaths among women worldwide; and

5 WHEREAS, Human papillomavirus is a primary cause of cervical  
6 cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 5 million people acquire human  
8 papillomavirus, which is linked to cervical cancer in high-risk  
9 cases; and

10 WHEREAS, With regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer  
11 is highly preventable; and

12 WHEREAS, Widespread screening has reduced death rates from  
13 cervical cancer, but women are still dying despite advanced

1 medical techniques and evaluative procedures; and

2 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer rates in the United States are  
3 affected by education, access to regular cervical cancer  
4 screening and screening accuracy; and

5 WHEREAS, Experience shows that increasing cervical cancer  
6 awareness among women, especially underserved women,  
7 significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

8 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority  
9 women and women with lower incomes who are less likely to have  
10 access to routine screening; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately half of all cervical cancer cases are  
12 in women who have never been screened and 10% of cases are in  
13 women who have not been screened within the last five years; and

14 WHEREAS, The median age of cervical cancer patients at  
15 diagnosis is 47 years, the youngest median age for all female  
16 reproductive cancers; and

17 WHEREAS, New screening technologies offer new opportunities  
18 to finally eliminate cervical cancer through early  
19 identification of women at increased risk; and

20 WHEREAS, These technologies include testing approved by the  
21 Food and Drug Administration for human papillomavirus, the cause  
22 of virtually all cervical cancers; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration has  
24 approved a vaccine for human papillomavirus, for both females  
25 and males recommended beginning at 9 years of age to 26 years of  
26 age, which prevents infection by four strains of human  
27 papillomavirus to prevent most cases of cervical cancer; and

28 WHEREAS, The National Immunization Program of the Centers for  
29 Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on  
30 Immunization Practices have jointly recommended the use of the

1 human papillomavirus vaccine for adolescents and young adults,  
2 both female and male, between 11 and 26 years of age; and

3 WHEREAS, Women are entitled to appropriate information  
4 relating to cervical cancer so they may make informed health  
5 care decisions and may access accurate screening and  
6 vaccination; and

7 WHEREAS, Women in Pennsylvania, between the ages of 40 and 64  
8 who are uninsured may be eligible for free screening for  
9 cervical cancer through the Department of Health's Healthy Woman  
10 Program; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Health reports that in 2008-2009,  
12 6,606 women were screened for cervical cancer through the  
13 Healthy Woman Program and 207 women were found to have cervical  
14 dysplasia or cervical cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Women in Pennsylvania under the age of 64, who are  
16 uninsured and in need of treatment for cervical cancer or a  
17 precancerous condition of the cervix may be eligible for full  
18 health care benefits through the Breast and Cervical Cancer  
19 Prevention and Treatment Program of the Department of Human  
20 Services; and

21 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes that through education  
22 and screening, women can decrease their likelihood of developing  
23 cervical cancer, and that with early detection, cervical cancer  
24 can be successfully treated; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
26 month of January 2015 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in  
27 Pennsylvania to increase awareness, on the part of women,  
28 families, health care providers and policymakers, of the risks,  
29 prevalence and treatability of cervical cancer and the  
30 importance of early access to accurate screening.