
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 857 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BOBACK, R. BROWN,
V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO,
DONATUCCI, DUSH, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARHART, HENNESSEY,
PHILLIPS-HILL, JAMES, KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI,
MACKENZIE, MARSICO, MCCLINTON, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON,
O'BRIEN, PAYNE, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROSS, SANTORA,
SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, STAATS, STURLA, TOEPEL, TOOHIL, VEREB,
WARD, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD AND MAHONEY, MAY 2, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 2, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2016 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2016 to be
4 "Healthy Babies Month" in order to educate women and men of
5 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and
6 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle to enhance
7 positive birth outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age should take steps before
9 and during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, such as adopting
10 a healthy lifestyle that includes moderate exercise and 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, Consuming 400 micrograms of folic acid daily for

1 three months prior to and during the early weeks of conception
2 may prevent up to 70% of neural tube defects, such as birth
3 defects of the brain and spinal cord; and

4 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2014, 16.9% of women 18 to 44
5 years of age reported binge drinking during pregnancy, which can
6 cause birth defects and intellectual and developmental
7 disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2014, 23% of women 18 to 44 years
9 of age reported smoking and 12.9% of pregnant women reported
10 smoking in the last three months of pregnancy, which may
11 contribute to prematurity and low birth weight; and

12 WHEREAS, Early and regular preconception and prenatal care is
13 a pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her
14 baby; and

15 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2013, 6.8%, or approximately 1 in
16 15, of infants were born to women receiving either no prenatal
17 care or late prenatal care beginning in the seventh to ninth
18 month of pregnancy; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
20 month of May 2016 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania; and
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge parents and
23 prospective parents to contact the March of Dimes and allied
24 health care organizations for literature on how to prepare
25 themselves before conception and during pregnancy.