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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 64 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MURT, BOBACK, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,  
D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, FREEMAN,  
GABLER, KAVULICH, KINSEY, KULIK, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, MILLARD,  
NEILSON, O'BRIEN, PICKETT, READSHAW, ROZZI, RYAN, SONNEY AND  
WATSON, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2017 as "Cervical Cancer  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Human papillomavirus is responsible for causing 90%  
4 of all cervical cancer cases; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 14 million people acquire  
6 human papillomavirus, which is linked to cervical cancer in  
7 high-risk cases; and

8 WHEREAS, With routine and accurate screening, cervical cancer  
9 is highly preventable; and

10 WHEREAS, Widespread screening has reduced mortality rates for  
11 women with cervical cancer, yet the number of deaths is still  
12 significant despite advanced medical techniques and evaluative  
13 procedures; and

14 WHEREAS, Cervical cancer rates in the United States are  
15 affected by education, access to routine cervical cancer  
16 screening and screening accuracy; and

1       WHEREAS, Experience shows that increasing cervical cancer  
2 awareness among women, especially underserved women,  
3 significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

4       WHEREAS, Cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority  
5 women and women with lower incomes who are less likely to have  
6 access to routine screenings; and

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

10       WHEREAS, The majority of cervical cancer patients are  
11 diagnosed before 50 years of age, the youngest median age for  
12 all female reproductive cancers; and

13       WHEREAS, New screening technologies offer advanced  
14 opportunities to eliminate cervical cancer through early  
15 identification of women at increased risk; and

16       WHEREAS, These technologies include testing approved by the  
17 United States Food and Drug Administration for human  
18 papillomavirus, the cause of virtually all cervical cancers; and

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

25       WHEREAS, The National Immunization Program of the Centers for  
26 Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on  
27 Immunization Practices have jointly recommended the use of the  
28 human papillomavirus vaccine for adolescents and young adults,  
29 both female and male, between 9 and 26 years of age; and

30       WHEREAS, Women are entitled to accurate information relating

1 to cervical cancer so they can make informed health care  
2 decisions and can access accurate screening and vaccination; and

3 WHEREAS, Women in this Commonwealth between 40 and 64 years  
4 of age who are uninsured may be eligible for free screening for  
5 cervical cancer through the Department of Health's Healthy Woman  
6 Program; and

7 WHEREAS, Women in Pennsylvania under 65 years of age who are  
8 uninsured and in need of treatment for cervical cancer or a  
9 precancerous condition of the cervix may be eligible for full  
10 health care benefits through the Breast and Cervical Cancer  
11 Prevention and Treatment Program of the Department of Human  
12 Services; and

13 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth recognizes that through education  
14 and screening, women can decrease the likelihood of developing  
15 cervical cancer, and that with early detection, cervical cancer  
16 can be successfully treated; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
18 month of January 2017 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in  
19 Pennsylvania to increase awareness, on the part of women,  
20 families, health care providers and policymakers, of the risks,  
21 prevalence and treatability of cervical cancer and the  
22 importance of early access to accurate screening.