
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 311 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, CUTLER, BAKER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, C. PARKER, BENNINGHOFF, PICKETT, RAPP, ACOSTA, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FARINA, FEE, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART, HEFFLEY, HELM, HENNESSEY, KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, McCARTER, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, MUSTIO, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, D. PARKER, PAYNE, READSHAW, ROSS, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, THOMAS, VEREB, WHEELAND AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 4, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 4, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2015 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, 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, 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 2013, 17.6% of women 18 to 44
5 years of age reported binge drinking in the past month, which
6 can cause birth defects and mental retardation; and

7 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2013, 22.5% of women 18 to 44
8 years of age reported smoking and 12.9% of pregnant women
9 reported smoking in the last three months of pregnancy, which
10 may contribute to prematurity and low birth weight; and

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

14 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2012, 6.4%, or about 1 in 16,
15 infants were born to women receiving either no prenatal care or
16 late prenatal care beginning in the seventh to ninth month of
17 pregnancy; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
19 month of May 2015 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
20 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of
21 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
22 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.