
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 321 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BISHOP, R. BROWN, HENNESSEY, PICKETT,
BAKER, PETRI, COHEN, MILLARD, B. BOYLE, SCHLOSSBERG, KILLION,
CALTAGIRONE, VEREB, KAVULICH, P. DALEY, LONGIETTI, O'BRIEN,
GIBBONS, HICKERNELL, FREEMAN, MIRABITO, YOUNGBLOOD, ROCK,
LUCAS, DiGIROLAMO, TURZAI, BOBACK, MARSICO, QUINN, THOMAS,
V. BROWN, DONATUCCI, KORTZ, O'NEILL, ROSS, EVERETT, HESS,
GINGRICH, GRELL, MURT, DEASY, WHITE, ROEBUCK, MOUL, SWANGER,
BROOKS, MAHONEY, MAJOR, BENNINGHOFF, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND
HEFFLEY, MAY 13, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2013 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2013 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 in order to
7 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

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

4 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2011, 21.4% of women 18 to 44
5 years of age reported binge drinking in the past month, compared
6 to 19.5% overall in the United States; and

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

10 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2011, 26.9% of women 18 to 44
11 years of age reported smoking, compared to 22.5% overall in the
12 United States; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2010, 6.9%, or about 1 in 15,
19 infants were born to women receiving no prenatal care or late
20 prenatal care beginning in the third trimester; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
22 month of May 2013 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
23 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of
24 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
25 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.