
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 324 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, RYAN,
PICKETT, MILLARD, BURNS, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, ROEBUCK,
JAMES, SONNEY, SCHLOSSBERG, MARSHALL, BERNSTINE, YOUNGBLOOD,
HILL-EVANS, BROWN, PASHINSKI, OBERLANDER, RAPP, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, B. MILLER, READSHAW, MACKENZIE, SCHWEYER, SAINATO,
MULLINS, McCLINTON, FREEMAN, NEILSON, HOWARD AND DEASY,
MAY 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes educates women of childbearing
4 age and their partners about the importance of before, during
5 and after pregnancy care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle to
6 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age should take steps before
8 and during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, including
9 adopting a healthy lifestyle that includes moderate exercise and
10 a balanced diet and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol,
11 illegal drugs and certain medications that may harm a developing
12 fetus; and

13 WHEREAS, Consuming 400 micrograms of folic acid daily for
14 three months prior to and during the early weeks of conception
15 may prevent up to 70% of neural tube defects, including birth

1 defects of the brain and spinal cord; and

2 WHEREAS, Though 84% of women 18 to 45 years of age who were
3 surveyed had heard of folic acid, only 19% knew to take folic
4 acid before pregnancy; and

5 WHEREAS, Substance use during pregnancy, including smoking,
6 alcohol and illicit drugs, is a risk factor for adverse birth
7 outcomes, such as birth defects, developmental disabilities,
8 preterm birth, low birth weight and infant mortality; and

9 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2017, 22.5% of women 18 to 44
10 years of age reported binge drinking in the past month, compared
11 to 18.5% of women overall in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2017, 19.7% of women 18 to 44
13 years of age reported smoking, compared to 15.5% of women
14 overall in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Pre and post pregnancy care is the first line of
16 defense for protecting pregnant women and their infants; and

17 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, in 2015, 6.6% of infants, or
18 approximately 1 in 15, were born to women receiving no prenatal
19 care or late prenatal care beginning in the seventh to ninth
20 month of pregnancy; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of May 2019 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania; and
23 be it further

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