RESOLUTION NO._______

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

3 FOR the purpose of designating September of each year as "Ovarian Cancer

Awareness Month".

5 WHEREAS, Each year, while approximately 82,000 women in the United States

are diagnosed with cancers affecting the reproductive organs, ovarian cancer is the

most serious form of gynecologic cancers, killing approximately 40 women a day,

accounting for 4% of all cancers among women, and ranking fifth as a cause of their

deaths from cancer;

10 WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that over 23,000 women in the

United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2001, 2002, with one woman

out of every 55 developing ovarian cancer at some point in her life;

13 WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that over approximately 14,000

women in the United States will die from ovarian cancer in 2001, 2002;

15 WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that 200 women in the State of

Maryland will die from ovarian cancer in 2002;

17 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is often referred to as the "silent killer" because the

symptoms are often subtle, vague, and easily confused with other ailments, making it

difficult to diagnose and thus allowing this lethal malignancy the opportunity to

spread through a woman's abdomen and beyond before being detected;

21 WHEREAS, Over 75% of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are not

diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries, resulting in a 5-year

survival rate of only 15% to 20%;
WHEREAS, Early detection of ovarian cancer approaches a 95% survival rate, however, only 25% of all cases are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, Because there is currently no effective, easy-to-use means of early detection for ovarian cancer, knowledge, understanding, and an awareness of the disease and its symptoms are every woman's best defense against ovarian cancer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the month of September in each year is designated as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That public health agencies are urged to develop strategies, pamphlets, public service announcements, presentations, and a coordinated campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge regarding this virulent disease; and be it further

RESOLVED, That hospitals, health care providers, service organizations, newspapers, advertisers, schools, and individuals are encouraged to participate fully in this struggle to save lives through public education regarding ovarian cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to Secretary Georges C. Benjamin, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201; and to Charles Leiss, Chief Executive Officer, The American Cancer Society, Mid-Atlantic Division, Inc., 8219 Town Center Drive, P.O. Box 43025, Baltimore, Maryland 21236.