

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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P1

2002 Regular Session
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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Conroy**
Requested: July 26, 2001
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**

3 FOR the purpose of designating September of each year as "Ovarian Cancer
4 Awareness Month".

5 WHEREAS, Each year, while approximately 82,000 women in the United States
6 are diagnosed with cancers affecting the reproductive organs, ovarian cancer is the
7 most serious form of gynecologic cancers, killing approximately 40 women a day,
8 accounting for 4% of all cancers among women, and ranking fifth as a cause of their
9 deaths from cancer;

10 WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that over 23,000 women in the
11 United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2001, with one woman out of
12 every 55 developing ovarian cancer at some point in her life;

13 WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that over 14,000 women in the
14 United States will die from ovarian cancer in 2001;

15 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is often referred to as the "silent killer" because the
16 symptoms are often subtle, vague, and easily confused with other ailments, making it
17 difficult to diagnose and thus allowing this lethal malignancy the opportunity to
18 spread through a woman's abdomen and beyond before being detected;

19 WHEREAS, Over 75% of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are not
20 diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries, resulting in a 5-year
21 survival rate of only 15% to 20%;

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

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

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

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

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

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