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(PRE-FILED)
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By: **Delegate Conroy**
Requested: July 26, 2001
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002
Assigned to: Environmental Matters
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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: January 18, 2002
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RESOLUTION NO._____

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~~ 2002, with one woman
12 out of every 55 developing ovarian cancer at some point in her life;

13   WHEREAS, Public health experts estimate that ~~over~~ approximately 14,000
14 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
16 Maryland will die from ovarian cancer in 2002;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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