

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1363L.011

1 **Whereas**, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common
2 cancer in women worldwide after breast cancer; and
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4 **Whereas**, according to United States cervical cancer statistics, the disease is the
5 third most common gynecological cancer among American women. With approximately 12,200
6 new cases diagnosed annually, 4,100 of these cases result in death; and
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8 **Whereas**, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable
9 with regular and accurate screening; and
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11 **Whereas**, widespread screening programs have helped reduce death rates from
12 cervical cancer, but women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques and
13 evaluative procedures; and
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15 **Whereas**, cervical cancer cases in the United States are generally attributed to lack
16 of education, a reduction of access available to regular cervical cancer screening, and a lack of
17 screening accuracy; and
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19 **Whereas**, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer awareness among

20 women, especially underserved women within our state, significantly reduces the probability of
21 mortality; and
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23 **Whereas**, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority women and women
24 with lower incomes because they are less likely to have access to routine screening; and
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26 **Whereas**, approximately one-half of all cervical cancer cases are in women who
27 have never been screened, and ten percent of cases are in women who have not been screened
28 within the last five years; and
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30 **Whereas**, the median age of cervical cancer patients at diagnosis is 47 years, the
31 youngest median age for all female reproductive cancers; and
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33 **Whereas**, new screening technologies, including FDA-approved testing for human
34 papillomavirus, which is the cause of virtually all cervical cancers, offer new opportunities to
35 finally eliminate this potentially deadly disease through early identification of women at
36 increased risk; and
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38 **Whereas**, leading medical organizations, including the American College of
39 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the Association of
40 Reproductive Health Professionals have recently updated their screening guidelines to include
41 FDA-approved testing for human papillomavirus; and
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43 **Whereas**, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information so they can be

44 empowered to make informed health care decisions, and are entitled to access to routine
45 screening, including the most accurate methods available:
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47 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
48 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
49 concurring therein, hereby recognize that through education and screening women can lower
50 their likelihood for developing cervical cancer, and that through early detection cervical cancer
51 can be successfully treated after it develops; and
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53 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly supported the
54 Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Cancer Consortium in
55 taking the lead in formulating the Comprehensive Cancer Action Plan for Missouri, including
56 the review of data regarding cervical cancer and human papillomavirus of women in Missouri,
57 evaluating current methods used to provide women with information regarding cervical cancer,
58 access to regular screening, and options for increasing screening accuracy; and
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60 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly supports the
61 Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Cancer Consortium in the
62 identification of pockets of need, priority strategies, and new technologies, including new
63 introduced therapies and preventive vaccines which are effective in preventing and controlling
64 cervical cancer; and
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66 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly directs that the
67 Comprehensive Cancer Action Plan for Missouri, which serves as a nationwide model of
68 effective cancer control strategies, be presented annually to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,

69 President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and be posted on
70 the Missouri state web site homepage; and
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72 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
73 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor
74 Matt Blunt, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, the Director of the Department of Health and
75 Senior Services, and the Missouri Cancer Consortium.