



SR0394

LRB104 14115 LAW 27247 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer deaths of women in the United States and causes more deaths than any other gynecologic cancer; and

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WHEREAS, In the United States, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is approximately 1 in 78; and

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WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates 20,890 cases of ovarian cancer will be newly diagnosed in 2025 and 12,730 individuals will die from the disease nationwide, including 770 new cases and 410 deaths in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 50%, although survival rates vary greatly depending on the stage of diagnosis, such as individuals who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer in its early stages having a survival rate of over 90%; and

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WHEREAS, While a mammogram can detect breast cancer and a Pap smear can detect cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer; and

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WHEREAS, In June 2007, the first national consensus

1 statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide
2 consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for women
3 to learn and remember those symptoms; and

4 WHEREAS, Black women with ovarian cancer are more likely
5 to have late-stage diagnoses, receive lower quality clinical
6 services, and have lower five-year survival rates than
7 non-Black women; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of color, low-income women, and women
9 living in rural areas have more barriers to accessing standard
10 quality of care and are more likely to receive care at a
11 facility that has poorer adherence to National Comprehensive
12 Cancer Network (NCCN) treatment guidelines; and

13 WHEREAS, Too many people remain unaware that the symptoms
14 of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal
15 pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary
16 symptoms, and several other vague symptoms that are often
17 easily confused with other diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, Improved awareness of the symptoms of ovarian
19 cancer by the public and health care providers can lead to a
20 quicker diagnosis; and

21 WHEREAS, The lack of an early detection test for ovarian

1 cancer combined with its vague symptoms mean that
2 approximately 80% of ovarian cancer cases are detected at an
3 advanced stage; and

4 WHEREAS, Persistent issues in collecting and reporting
5 data related to ovarian cancer risk, treatment, and outcomes
6 are particularly pronounced and impede the development of
7 effective policy; and

8 WHEREAS, All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, but
9 approximately 20% of women who are diagnosed with ovarian
10 cancer have a hereditary predisposition to ovarian cancer,
11 which places them at even higher risk; and

12 WHEREAS, Scientists and physicians have uncovered changes
13 in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from their parents,
14 which may make those women 30 times more likely to develop
15 ovarian cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, A woman's family history has been found to play
17 an important role in accurately assessing their risk of
18 developing ovarian cancer, and medical experts believe that
19 family history should be taken into consideration during the
20 annual well-woman visit of any woman; and

21 WHEREAS, Women who know that they are at high risk of

1 ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures, such as
2 opportunistic salpingectomy, to help reduce the risk of
3 developing this disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Guidelines issued by the National Comprehensive
5 Cancer Network and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology
6 recommend that all individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer
7 receive genetic counseling and genetic testing regardless of
8 family history; and

9 WHEREAS, Studies consistently show that compliance with
10 these guidelines is alarmingly low, with recently published
11 National Cancer Institute-funded research finding that in 2013
12 and 2014, only one-third of ovarian cancer survivors have
13 undergone such testing; and

14 WHEREAS, According to a 2016 consensus report by the
15 National Academy of Medicine, "there remain surprising gaps in
16 the fundamental knowledge about and understanding of ovarian
17 cancer" across all aspects of the disease; and

18 WHEREAS, Ongoing investments in ovarian cancer research
19 and education and awareness efforts are critical to closing
20 these gaps and improving survivorship for women with ovarian
21 cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, Each year during the month of September, the
2 Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) and community partner
3 organizations hold a number of events to increase public
4 awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms; and

5 WHEREAS, National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month is
6 typically recognized during the month of September each year;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September
10 2025 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the State of
11 Illinois to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we affirm our support towards the goals and
14 ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.