



HJ0111 Engrossed

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 111

2 WHEREAS, Nearly one in 8 babies born in Illinois is born  
3 preterm, 13.3% of Illinois babies in total; and

4 WHEREAS, The percentage of preterm births in Illinois has  
5 increased by 15%; and

6 WHEREAS, The rate of preterm births in Illinois is highest  
7 for African-American infants (19.3%) followed by Native  
8 Americans (15.6%), Hispanics (12.1%), Caucasians (11.9%) and  
9 Asians (10.7%); and

10 WHEREAS, African-American infants (19.3%) are about two  
11 times as likely as Asian infants (10.7%) to be born preterm;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Major risk factors for preterm and very preterm  
14 births include multiple births, history of preterm delivery,  
15 stress, infection, smoking, and illicit drug use; and

16 WHEREAS, In the United States, preterm birth or low birth  
17 weight is the 2nd leading cause of all infant deaths during the  
18 first year of life and the leading cause of infant deaths among  
19 African-American infants; and

1           WHEREAS, The global toll of preterm births is severe; and  
2           an estimated 28% of the 4 million annual neonatal deaths are  
3           due to preterm births; and

4           WHEREAS, Children born preterm have higher rates of  
5           learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, sensory deficits, and  
6           respiratory illnesses compared to children born at term; and

7           WHEREAS, To be most effective, preventive strategies  
8           should involve strengthening existing reproductive, maternal,  
9           newborn, and child health care programs to encourage synergies  
10          of preterm birth care while, at the same time, stimulating  
11          fresh thinking and innovative new approaches to prevention;  
12          therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14          NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15          SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Perinatal Advisory  
16          Committee within the Illinois Department of Public Health to  
17          investigate how Illinois can reduce the incidence of preterm  
18          births in Illinois; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That the Perinatal Advisory Committee shall  
20          consult with a representative of the Illinois Department of  
21          Human Services, a representative of the Illinois Department of  
22          Healthcare and Family Services, a representative of an

1 organization whose main focus is on preterm births; 2 members  
2 of the Illinois House of Representatives, one of whom shall be  
3 named by the Speaker of the House, and one of whom shall be  
4 named by the Minority Leader of the House; and 2 members of the  
5 Senate, one of whom shall be named by the President of the  
6 Senate and one of whom shall be named by the Minority Leader of  
7 the Senate; and be it further;

8       RESOLVED, That the Perinatal Advisory Committee shall, in a  
9 written report that is to be delivered to the General Assembly  
10 on or before November 1, 2012, make findings and  
11 recommendations concerning reducing preterm births in  
12 Illinois; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to  
14 the Director of the Department of Public Health.