

**RESOLUTION URGING COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CONTROL PLAN FOR THE STATE**

2005 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Hale

House Sponsor: Karen W. Morgan

Carlene M. Walker

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature recognizes efforts to formulate a Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan and identify ways to prevent and control cervical cancer.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the Department of Health and the Utah Cancer Action Network for taking the lead in formulating the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan; and
- ▶ expresses support for the efforts of the Department of Health and the Utah Cancer Action Network in the identification of ways to prevent and control cervical cancer.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide;

WHEREAS, according to federal government statistics, cervical cancer is the third most common gynecological cancer among American women, with approximately 12,200 new cases diagnosed annually;

WHEREAS, 4,100 of the 12,200 new cases of cervical cancer cases diagnosed each year result in fatalities;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the only cancer with one known cause - human papillomavirus (HPV);

WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable;

WHEREAS, widespread screening programs have helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical cancer, but women are still dying even with advanced medical techniques and evaluative procedures;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer cases in the United States are generally attributed to a lack of education, a reduction of access available to regular cervical cancer screening, and a lack of screening accuracy;

WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer awareness among women, especially the underserved women within the state, significantly reduces the probability of mortality;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority women and women with lower incomes because they are less likely to have access to routine screening;

WHEREAS, approximately half of all cervical cancer cases are in women who have never been screened, and 10% of cases in women who have not been screened within the last five years;

WHEREAS, the median age of cervical cancer patients at diagnosis is 47 years, the youngest median age for all female reproductive cancers;

WHEREAS, new screening technologies, including Food and Drug Administration-approved testing for HPV, which is the cause of virtually all cervical cancers, offer new opportunities to finally eliminate this potentially deadly disease through early identification of women at increased risk;

WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, have recently updated their screening guidelines to include Food and Drug Administration-approved testing for HPV;

WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information so that they can be

empowered to make informed healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, women are entitled to have access to routine screening, including the most accurate methods available:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes the Utah Department of Health and the Utah Cancer Action Network in taking the lead in formulating the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for the state, including the review of data regarding cervical cancer of women in the state, evaluating current methods used to provide women with information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular screening, and options for increasing screening accuracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the Department of Health and the Utah Cancer Action Network in the identification of pockets of need, priority strategies, and new technologies, including newly introduced therapies and preventive vaccines which are effective in preventing and controlling cervical cancer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes that through education and screening, women can lower their likelihood for developing cervical cancer, and that through early detection, cervical cancer can be successfully treated after it develops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Cancer Action Network and the Department of Health to increase their efforts to prevent cervical cancer and increase awareness of the link between HPV and cervical cancer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Utah Cancer Action Network to review and, or, update the State Comprehensive Cancer Plan as needed and present the updated information to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and that it also be posted on the State's website, www.utahcancer.com.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and the Utah Cancer Action Network housed at the Utah Department of Health.