

**As Reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging  
Committee**

**129th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2011-2012**

**S. C. R. No. 15**

**Senator Schaffer**

**Cosponsors: Senators Tavares, Jones**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To express the General Assembly's support of 1  
increasing public awareness of and education on 2  
the importance of folic acid in the diets of women 3  
of childbearing age. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Sufficient folic acid in women's diets before and 5  
during pregnancy can reduce the risk of birth defects of the brain 6  
and spinal cord known as neural tube defects; and 7

WHEREAS, Neural tube defects occur in about one out of every 8  
one thousand pregnancies in the United States; and 9

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that neural tube defects could be 10  
prevented if women consume the proper amounts of folic acid before 11  
becoming pregnant and during early pregnancy; and 12

WHEREAS, The Food and Nutrition Board of the National 13  
Academies' Institute of Medicine, the United States Public Health 14  
Service, and the United States Preventative Services Task Force 15  
recommend that women who are of childbearing age should consume 16  
four hundred micrograms of synthetic folic acid every day from a 17  
vitamin or from fortified foods, in addition to eating a healthy 18

diet rich in natural sources of folate; and 19

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes found that while public awareness 20  
is improving and eighty-four per cent of women have heard of folic 21  
acid, only thirty-nine per cent take a daily vitamin containing 22  
folate, only twenty per cent know that folic acid prevents birth 23  
defects, and only eleven per cent know it should be taken before 24  
pregnancy; and 25

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes found that health professionals 26  
have not been the main source of women's information and awareness 27  
about folic acid since forty-nine per cent of the women who 28  
learned about folic acid did so from the media as compared to 29  
thirty-three per cent who learned about folic acid from their 30  
physicians or other healthcare providers; now therefore be it 31

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 129th General Assembly 32  
of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, express our 33  
support of increasing public awareness of and education on the 34  
importance of folic acid in the diets of women of childbearing age 35  
to help prevent neural tube defects; and be it further 36

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 129th General Assembly 37  
of the State of Ohio, suggest that the Ohio Department of Health, 38  
State Medical Board of Ohio, Ohio Board of Nursing, Ohio State 39  
Board of Pharmacy, and the Ohio Department of Insurance 40  
collaborate when engaging in any effort to increase public 41  
awareness of and education on the importance of folic acid. 42