

**As Introduced**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**S. C. R. No. 3**

**Senator Tavares**

**Cosponsors: Senators Cafaro, Brown, Turner, Gentile, Skindell, Smith**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To recognize the week of January 20-26, 2013, as 1  
Reproductive Rights Awareness Week to encourage 2  
public awareness, conversation, and support for 3  
reproductive rights and justice. 4

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

WHEREAS, Women comprise more than half of the population of 5  
the United States of America and are solely responsible for 6  
childbearing; and 7

WHEREAS, Women who plan their pregnancies are more likely to 8  
seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health of 9  
their children; and 10

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Women Policy Studies' 11  
2011 National Strategic Action Convening for State Legislators on 12  
Reproductive Rights and Justice, the United States of America 13  
ranks 30th in the world in its rate of maternal mortality and has 14  
one of the highest rates of maternal mortality among all developed 15  
nations; and 16

WHEREAS, Family planning services improve health care 17  
outcomes and wellness for women and families, access to family 18  
planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant 19

mortality rates, and women who do not receive prenatal care are 20  
three to four times more likely to die after a live birth than are 21  
women who have received even minimal prenatal care; and 22

WHEREAS, Contraception enables women to better prevent 23  
unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they do want to 24  
have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services and 25  
supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each 26  
year in the United States; and 27

WHEREAS, Nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in 28  
abortion, and abortion rates in the United States increase during 29  
times when contraception is less accessible to low income women; 30  
and 31

WHEREAS, The United States has one of the highest rates of 32  
unintended pregnancy among the world's developed nations, half of 33  
all the pregnancies in the United States are unintended, and half 34  
of unintended pregnancies occur in women who are not using 35  
contraceptives; and 36

WHEREAS, In addition to the primary purpose of allowing women 37  
to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits of 38  
contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian 39  
cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to 40  
heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic 41  
inflammatory disease; and 42

WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic health disparities are 43  
particularly pronounced in reproductive health, including 44  
disparities in rates of contraceptive usage, unintended 45  
pregnancies, maternal mortality, and sexually transmitted 46  
infections; and 47

WHEREAS, These racial and ethnic health disparities reveal 48  
significant barriers to access to sexual health care (including 49  
contraception), medical care, and medically accurate sexuality 50

education; and 51

WHEREAS, A majority of American voters believe that matters 52  
related to women's reproductive rights, including contraception 53  
and abortion, are personal issues that should be decided by women 54  
with their families, health care providers, or clergy members; now 55  
therefore be it 56

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 57  
of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, recognize the 58  
week of January 20-26, 2013, as Reproductive Rights Awareness Week 59  
to encourage public awareness, conversation, and support for 60  
reproductive rights and justice; and be it further 61

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 62  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of Ohio. 63