

As Introduced

130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014

S. R. No. 418

Senators Seitz, Jones, Obhof, Tavares

RESOLUTION

Recognizing World Prematurity Awareness Month in
Ohio, November 2014.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 130th General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to recognize November 2014 as World Prematurity Awareness Month in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Premature birth is birth that happens before thirty-seven weeks of pregnancy. Babies born prematurely are at a higher risk of health problems and disabilities both at birth and later in life than those who reach full term, and premature birth is also the number one killer of newborns. In addition, premature birth has a major impact on families and on society, including employers, amounting to more than \$25 billion annually in medical, insurance, and other costs; and

WHEREAS, Each year, more than half a million babies are born prematurely in the United States and fifteen million babies are born prematurely worldwide. Many of these births are elective early deliveries despite no added risk factors for the mothers, and a significant number of the rest can be prevented with better care and education; and

WHEREAS, Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938, the March of Dimes strives to prevent birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality, and as part of its mission, it launched the Prematurity Campaign in 2003 to address the crisis of premature birth and to help families have full-term, healthy

babies. Among its initiatives to reach the goal of reducing preterm birth in this country to 9.6 percent by 2020, the organization authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education for Mothers Act, which was enacted by Congress in 2006, and introduced November as World Prematurity Awareness Month, and it also sponsors numerous programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants and prevent early elective deliveries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 130th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, recognize November 2014 as World Prematurity Awareness Month in Ohio; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this Resolution to the March of Dimes Ohio Chapter and the news media of Ohio.