

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5023

By Committee on Health and Human Services

1-17

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating January 20-26, 2014, as
2 "Women's Reproductive Health Awareness Week."

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

5 WHEREAS, Women who plan their pregnancies are more likely to
6 seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health of their
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States of America has one of the highest rates
9 of maternal mortality among all developed nations; and

10 WHEREAS, Family planning services improve health care outcomes
11 and wellness for women and families, and access to family planning is
12 directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality rates. Women
13 who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times more likely to die
14 after a live birth than are women who have received even minimal
15 prenatal care; and

16 WHEREAS, Contraception enables women to better prevent
17 unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they do want to
18 have a child; and

19 WHEREAS, Nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in abortion
20 and abortion rates in the United States of America increase during times
21 when contraception is less accessible to low income women; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States of America has one of the highest rates
23 of unintended pregnancy among the world's developed nations; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to the primary purpose of allowing women to
25 plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits of contraception
26 include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian cancers, ectopic
27 pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to heavy menstruation,
28 osteoporosis and ovarian cysts; and

29 WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic health disparities are particularly
30 pronounced in reproductive health, including disparities in rates of
31 contraception usage, unintended pregnancies, maternal mortality and
32 sexually transmitted infections. These disparities reveal significant
33 barriers to access to sexual health care, including contraception, medical
34 care and medically accurate sexuality education; and

35 WHEREAS, A majority of American voters believe that matters
36 related to women's reproductive rights are personal issues that should be

1 decided by women with their families, health care providers or clergy
2 members: Now, therefore,

3 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
4 *the Senate concurring therein:* That we designate January 20-26, 2014, as
5 "Women's Reproductive Health Awareness Week." We recognize the
6 importance of encouraging public awareness, conversation and support
7 for reproductive health nationwide.

8 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
9 Representatives shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Governor
10 Sam Brownback and Representative Bollier.