

By: Senator(s) Blackwell, Boyd, Barnett,  
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Simmons (13th),  
Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 541

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2022 AS "CERVICAL  
2 HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN MISSISSIPPI," ACKNOWLEDGING THAT  
3 CERVICAL CANCER IS DETECTABLE AND PREVENTABLE THROUGH REGULAR  
4 SCREENING, AND ENCOURAGING ALL WOMEN TO SCHEDULE WELL-WOMAN EXAMS  
5 AND PAP+HPV (CO-TESTING) CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING.

6 WHEREAS, since the introduction of the life-saving Pap test  
7 in the 1940s, cervical cancer rates have steadily declined in the  
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, however, cervical cancer continues to affect women  
10 at an alarming rate. Every hour in the United States, a woman is  
11 diagnosed with cervical cancer, and every two hours a woman will  
12 die of this disease; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2021, the American Cancer Society estimated  
14 14,480 new cases in the United States and 4,280 deaths from  
15 cervical cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is not only treatable but can be  
17 preventable through regular screening; and

18 WHEREAS, Pap+HPV (co-testing) is the most widely adopted and  
19 preferred method for cervical cancer screening in the United



20 States, and recent publications representative of clinical  
21 practice in the United States have shown that co-testing misses  
22 the fewest cancer/precursors and also indicate that 95 percent of  
23 cervical cancer has been detected by co-testing; and

24 WHEREAS, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic differences are  
25 factors that impact the screening, detection and treatment of  
26 cervical cancer in black and Hispanic women. Black women in the  
27 United States are twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than  
28 are white women and are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced  
29 cervical cancer than any other racial group, and Hispanic women  
30 are 30 percent more likely to die of cervical cancer than are  
31 white women; and

32 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has widened health disparities. In a  
33 recent report, 46 percent of women indicated they put off  
34 preventative care and 32 percent skipped recommended medical tests  
35 and screenings:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
37 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
38 we do hereby recognize January 2022 as "Cervical Health Awareness  
39 Month in Mississippi," acknowledge that cervical cancer is  
40 detectable and preventable through regular screening, and  
41 encourage all women to schedule well-woman exams and Pap+HPV  
42 (co-testing) cervical cancer screenings.



43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
44 the State Board of Health for appropriate distribution and made  
45 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

