



HR0119

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since the 1950s, stillbirths have declined
3 dramatically, largely due to better treatment of certain
4 chronic conditions, however, one in every 160 pregnancies in
5 the U.S. ends in a stillbirth each year; and

6 WHEREAS, Stillbirths are caused by a number of known causes
7 including, birth defects, placental problems, poor fetal
8 growth, infections, chronic health conditions of the mother,
9 and umbilical cord accidents; risk factors include a maternal
10 age over 35, maternal obesity, multiple gestation, and
11 African-American ancestry; a recent study found that
12 African-American women had a two-fold increased risk of
13 stillbirth compared to caucasian women; it is not known why
14 this is the case; and

15 WHEREAS, Women can take steps to lessen the risks of having
16 a stillbirth; before pregnancy, have a preconception visit with
17 their healthcare provider; during pregnancy, treat existing
18 conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity;
19 discuss with their healthcare provider all prescription,
20 over-the-counter, and herbal medications they are taking so
21 that the medications do not pose a risk to the fetus; and not
22 smoke, drink alcohol, or use street drugs during pregnancy; and

1 WHEREAS, Women who experience a stillbirth have the option
2 of receiving a Certificate of Stillbirth from the Department of
3 Public Health; it appears that the overwhelming majority of
4 women who experience such a tragedy are not interested in a
5 certificate or are not aware one is available to them; in the
6 last 10 years only 75 Certificates of Stillbirth have been
7 requested; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 compared with other developed countries, the U.S. has a
11 relatively high rate of stillbirths; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we recognize the need for greater awareness
13 of the incidence of stillbirth; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a Certificate of Stillbirth is available in
15 this State; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the Illinois Department of Public Health and
18 Planned Parenthood of Illinois.