

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly supports a women's health  
3 platform that recognizes the importance of health care and  
4 treatment of women and calls for the elimination of any  
5 inequities that would impair the health status of women in  
6 Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois can increase its support for women's  
8 health and can make a significant difference in improving the  
9 status of women's health; and

10 WHEREAS, Women are different metabolically, hormonally,  
11 and physiologically from men and have different patterns of  
12 health and disease and some diseases are more common in women  
13 than in men; and

14 WHEREAS, Women are more likely to suffer from chronic  
15 diseases, more than one in 5 women have some form of  
16 cardiovascular disease and one in 2 women will have an  
17 osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetimes; and

18 WHEREAS, Women are 3 times more likely than men to  
19 develop rheumatoid arthritis and 2 to 3 times more likely  
20 than men to suffer from depression; and

21 WHEREAS, Women are referred for diagnostic tests less  
22 frequently than men and are less frequently treated for heart  
23 disease than men; and

24 WHEREAS, Women who smoke are 20 to 70 percent more likely  
25 to develop lung cancer than men and are 10 times more likely  
26 to contract HIV during unprotected sex than men; and

27 WHEREAS, Women outnumber men by 3 to 1 in long-term care  
28 facilities; and

29 WHEREAS, Women are much more likely to provide health

1 care to family members and make health care decisions and  
2 spend 2 of every 3 health care dollars; and

3 WHEREAS, There is abundant evidence that women are  
4 under-treated compared to men; and

5 WHEREAS, There is abundant evidence that women are  
6 under-represented in women's health studies; and

7 WHEREAS, Although there has been some national attention  
8 on women's health care issues and some legislative activity  
9 by the Congress on access issues, there remains little change  
10 in vitally important preventive care and treatment issues;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In a recent survey of voters, almost 80% of  
13 women and 60% of men favored a women's health care platform  
14 that supports relevant care, relevant research, and relevant  
15 education for women; and

16 WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 men and women agree that women have  
17 the right to access to quality treatment and access to the  
18 latest technologies and appropriate diagnostic tests;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
22 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly urges  
23 that every State agency and State-chartered institution of  
24 learning or recipient of State grants or funding take  
25 appropriate action to achieve improved and equal access for  
26 women to quality health care, including: providing women with  
27 equal access to quality health care, including  
28 state-of-the-art medical advances and technology; increasing  
29 the number of women covered by comprehensive health care  
30 insurance including primary and preventive health care, for  
31 all women; preventing serious health problems by timely

1 diagnosis and treatment programs; promoting strategies to  
2 increase patient access to recommended diagnostic and  
3 screening tests, preventive health regimens, and recommended  
4 treatments; encouraging unimpeded access to women's specialty  
5 health providers; creating and promoting public/private  
6 partnerships to create programs designed to improve the scope  
7 and quality of women's health care; improving communications  
8 between providers and patients; the continued expansion of  
9 participation by women in clinical trials; the increase in  
10 government and private research on women's health issues and  
11 the differences between men and women and how they impact  
12 quality health care; the conduct of more health outcomes  
13 research to demonstrate the value of women's health care  
14 interventions and preventative health measures in both the  
15 long term and the short term; the expansion of medical and  
16 nursing school curricula in the area of women's health,  
17 including gender biology education; public education  
18 campaigns to increase women's awareness about their unique  
19 health risks, how to negotiate the complexities of today's  
20 health care system and obtain the best care available; the  
21 conduct of public health campaigns via State and local  
22 departments of public health with private sector partners to  
23 focus on key women's health issues; the initiatives of the  
24 Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women's  
25 Health to raise awareness of women's special health care  
26 needs, and the advocacy of those issues; the development and  
27 dissemination of publicly available information on the  
28 quality of health care and health outcomes that improve  
29 women's abilities to choose the best women's health care  
30 plan; and the expansion of State screening programs targeted  
31 at lower-income women to include a full range of known risk  
32 factors; and be it further

33       RESOLVED, That we commend the organization Women in  
34 Government for its leadership and enterprise in bringing to

1 Illinois the appropriate urgency of need and meaningful steps  
2 that can be taken to attain the improved and equal access for  
3 women to quality health care, technologies, and treatments;  
4 education of researchers about gender differences; and  
5 unimpeded access to women's health providers; and be it  
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
8 delivered to the Executive Director of Women in Government.