

REFERENCE TITLE: ovarian cancer awareness day

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-first Legislature
Second Regular Session
2014

HR 2008

Introduced by
Representative Carter

A RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE FIRST FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR AS OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS DAY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, Pound Out Cancer is a nonprofit organization dedicated to
2 reducing cancer by empowering people through healthy living, educating women
3 on recognizing ovarian cancer symptoms, supporting the opening of a community
4 evaluation center in Arizona and funding research on better screening and
5 cancer-eradicating drugs; and

6 Whereas, every 24 minutes, another woman is diagnosed with ovarian
7 cancer in the United States; and

8 Whereas, mortality rates for ovarian cancer have not improved in the
9 forty years since the "War on Cancer" was declared. Other cancers have shown
10 a marked reduction in mortality due to the availability of early detection
11 tests and improved treatments. This is not the case with ovarian cancer,
12 which is still the most lethal malignancy of all gynecologic cancers; and

13 Whereas, the American Cancer Society estimates that about 22,240 new
14 cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed each year and approximately 14,400
15 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States each year; and

16 Whereas, 93% of women who are diagnosed in early stages survive 5
17 years, yet fewer than 15% of cases are diagnosed early; and

18 Whereas, 1 in 4 women diagnosed with ovarian cancer will die in the
19 first year after diagnosis; and

20 Whereas, three-quarters of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed late
21 when the disease is most aggressive (stages III and IV); and

22 Whereas, three-quarters of those women diagnosed with stage III or IV
23 ovarian cancer will experience relapse after standard treatment, and more
24 than two-thirds of these women will die in less than 5 years; and

25 Whereas, 1 out of every 8 women with ovarian cancer carries a
26 hereditary mutation that can be identified through genetic testing, the most
27 common being the BRCA 1 and 2 gene that is carried by both male and female
28 descendants; and

29 Whereas, women who test positive for BRCA 1 and 2 have a 50% higher
30 risk of developing ovarian cancer; and

31 Whereas, no early detection tests are available for ovarian cancer and
32 it is difficult and confusing for women to find the best treatment and care
33 once diagnosed; and

34 Whereas, it is imperative that women look for symptoms, which include
35 bloating, abdominal pain, urinary frequency and difficulty eating; and

36 Whereas, the standard of care for diagnosing ovarian cancer includes
37 genetic testing, internal ultrasounds, CT scans, investigative surgery and
38 the use of a gynecological oncologist; and

39 Whereas, today ovarian cancer treatment employs a "one size fits all"
40 approach for treatment, clearly indicating that additional research directed
41 at detecting, treating and curing ovarian cancer is needed; and

42 Whereas, Arizona is uniquely situated to become the ovarian cancer
43 research center of the nation, and the University of Arizona Cancer Center in
44 Phoenix, in association with Dignity Health, is a leader in researching

1 ovarian cancer and providing treatment for women with and at risk for this
2 devastating disease; and

3 Whereas, some of the nation's and world's leaders in the fight to treat
4 and cure ovarian cancer are right here in Arizona; and

5 Whereas, an ovarian cancer diagnostic and research center is needed in
6 Arizona to meet the needs of symptomatic women, women at risk genetically and
7 women with existing identified abnormalities; and

8 Whereas, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness,
9 better education and a combined effort within the health community to
10 dedicate the resources needed to bring a better outcome to this serious
11 health issue.

12 Therefore

13 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

14 1. That the Members of the House of Representatives proclaim the first
15 Friday of September of each year as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day in the State
16 of Arizona.

17 2. That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this Resolution to
18 the Governor of the State of Arizona, the Arizona Department of Health
19 Services, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System administration, Dr.
20 Bradley Monk at the University of Arizona Cancer Center in Phoenix in
21 association with Dignity Health Gynecological Oncology Center, Dr. Jeffrey
22 Trent at the T-Gen Institute and Tamera Call at Pound Out Cancer.