

By Senator Sobel

31-01061-12

20122042

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing January 22-28, 2012, as  
"Reproductive Rights Awareness Week" in the State of  
Florida.

WHEREAS, women comprise more than half of the population of  
the United States and are solely responsible for childbearing,  
and

WHEREAS, women who plan their pregnancies are more likely  
to seek prenatal care, improving their own health and the health  
of their children, and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks 30th in the world in its  
rate of maternal mortality and has one of the highest rates of  
maternal mortality among all developed nations, and

WHEREAS, family planning services improve health care  
outcomes and wellness for women and families, and access to  
family planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and  
infant mortality rates, and

WHEREAS, women who do not receive prenatal care are three  
to four times more likely to die after a live birth than women  
who have received even minimal prenatal care, and

WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better prevent  
unintended pregnancies and plan for pregnancy when they do want  
to have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services and  
supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each  
year in the United States, and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in  
abortion and abortion rates in the United States increase during  
times when contraception is less accessible to low-income women,

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30 and

31 WHEREAS, the United States has one of the highest rates of  
32 unintended pregnancy among the world's developed nations, and  
33 half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended,  
34 most of which occur in women who are not using contraceptives,  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing  
37 women to plan and prepare for pregnancy, other health benefits  
38 of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian  
39 cancers, ectopic pregnancies, iron deficiency anemia related to  
40 heavy menstruation, osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic  
41 inflammatory disease, and

42 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are  
43 particularly pronounced in reproductive health, including  
44 disparities in the rates of contraception usage, unintended  
45 pregnancies, maternal mortality, and sexually transmitted  
46 infections, and these disparities reveal significant barriers in  
47 access to sexual health care, medical care, and medically  
48 accurate sexual education, and

49 WHEREAS, a majority of American voters believe that matters  
50 related to women's reproductive rights, including contraception  
51 and abortion, are personal issues that should be decided by  
52 women and their families, health care providers, and clergy  
53 members, and

54 WHEREAS, public awareness and discourse on the issue of  
55 reproductive rights and contraception are important elements in  
56 ensuring that all women have access to information about their  
57 reproductive rights and health care, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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59 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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61 That the week of January 22-28, 2012, be recognized as

62 "Reproductive Rights Awareness Week" in the State of Florida.