

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

Reps. Price, Steckloff, Byrnes, Mentzer, McFall, Arbit, Tsernoglou, Rogers, Wilson, Stone, Morse, Churches, Glanville, Dievendorf, MacDonell, Morgan, Fitzgerald, Brixie, Andrews, Liberati, Shannon, Hope, Brabec, Coffia, Rheingans, Neeley, Breen, Carter, Skaggs, Haadsma, Snyder, Scott, Young, Paiz, Miller, Puri, Farhat, Martus, O'Neal, Hoskins, Wegela, Whitsett, and Hill offered the following resolution offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare September 2023 as Ovarian Cancer  
2 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer  
4 deaths of women in the United States and causes more deaths than  
5 any other gynecologic cancer. An American woman's lifetime risk of  
6 being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is about 1 in 78; and

1           Whereas, The American Cancer Society estimates 19,710 cases of  
2 ovarian cancer will be newly diagnosed in 2023 and 13,270  
3 individuals will die from the disease nationwide, including 610 new  
4 cases and 460 deaths in Michigan. The five-year survival rate for  
5 ovarian cancer is 50 percent and survival rates vary greatly  
6 depending on the stage of diagnosis. The five-year survival rate  
7 for ovarian cancer is over 90 percent for individuals diagnosed in  
8 early stages; and

9           Whereas, While the mammogram can detect breast cancer and the  
10 Pap smear can detect cervical cancer, there is no reliable early  
11 detection test for ovarian cancer. In June 2007, the first national  
12 consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to  
13 provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for  
14 women to learn and remember those symptoms; and

15           Whereas, Women of color, low-income women, and women living in  
16 rural areas have more barriers to accessing standard quality of  
17 care and are more likely to receive care at a facility that has  
18 poorer adherence to National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)  
19 treatment guidelines. Black women with ovarian cancer are more  
20 likely to have late-stage diagnoses, receive lower quality clinical  
21 services, and have lower five-year survival rates than non-Black  
22 women; and

23           Whereas, Too many people remain unaware that the symptoms of  
24 ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain,  
25 difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and  
26 several other vague symptoms that are often easily confused with  
27 other diseases. The lack of an early detection test for ovarian  
28 cancer combined with its vague symptoms mean that approximately 80  
29 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced

1 stage; Improved awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by the  
2 public and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;  
3 and

4       Whereas, Persistent issues collecting and reporting data  
5 related to ovarian cancer risk, treatment, and outcomes are  
6 particularly pronounced and impede the development of effective  
7 policy; and

8       Whereas, All women are at risk for ovarian cancer, but  
9 approximately 20 percent of women who are diagnosed with ovarian  
10 cancer have a hereditary predisposition to ovarian cancer, which  
11 places them at even higher risk. Scientists and physicians have  
12 uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from  
13 their parents, which may make those women thirty times more likely  
14 to develop ovarian cancer. Family history of a woman has been found  
15 to play an important role in accurately assessing their risk of  
16 developing ovarian cancer and medical experts believe that family  
17 history should be taken into consideration during the annual well-  
18 woman visit of any woman; and

19       Whereas, Women who know that they are at high risk of ovarian  
20 cancer may undertake prophylactic measures, such as opportunistic  
21 salpingectomy, to help reduce the risk of developing this disease;  
22 and

23       Whereas, Guidelines issued by the National Comprehensive  
24 Cancer Network and Society of Gynecologic Oncology recommend that  
25 all individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive genetic  
26 counseling and genetic testing regardless of their family history.  
27 Studies consistently show that compliance with these guidelines is  
28 alarmingly low, with recently published National Cancer Institute-  
29 funded research finding that in 2013 and 2014, only one-third of

1 ovarian cancer survivors have undergone such testing; and

2       Whereas, According to a 2016 consensus report by the National  
3 Academy of Medicine, ``there remain surprising gaps in the  
4 fundamental knowledge about and understanding of ovarian cancer''  
5 across all aspects of the disease. Ongoing investments in ovarian  
6 cancer research and education and awareness efforts are critical to  
7 closing these gaps and improving survivorship for women with  
8 ovarian cancer; and

9       Whereas, Each year during the month of September, Ovarian  
10 Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) and community partner organizations  
11 hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian  
12 cancer and its symptoms; now, therefore, be it

13       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
14 this legislative body declare September 2023 as Ovarian Cancer  
15 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We urge increased public  
16 awareness of this condition and support the goals and ideals of its  
17 detection and treatment.