

Second Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R12-0035.01 Rebecca Hausmann x2172

SJR12-043

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12-043

101 **CONCERNING OVARIAN CANCER IN COLORADO.**

1 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common type of
2 cancer among women and causes more deaths than any other type of
3 female reproductive cancer; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Colorado Central Cancer Registry,
5 in Colorado in 2012, approximately 350 women will be diagnosed with
6 ovarian cancer and approximately 220 will die and, according to the
7 National Cancer Institute, nationwide approximately 22,280 women will
8 be diagnosed and approximately 15,500 will die; and

9 WHEREAS, In Colorado, a woman's cumulative lifetime risk of
10 ovarian cancer is 1 in 60 or 1.65%; and

11 WHEREAS, If a woman carries the BRCA gene mutation, her

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 cumulative lifetime risk of ovarian cancer is 38%; and

2 WHEREAS, For Jewish women, the chance of having the BRCA
3 gene mutation is 1 in 40 versus 1 in 500 in the general population, and
4 research has begun to show a higher incidence of the BRCA gene
5 mutation among Hispanics in the San Luis Valley; and

6 WHEREAS, For women with the BRCA gene mutation,
7 preventive measures may be taken that will lessen the risk of an ovarian
8 cancer diagnosis; and

9 WHEREAS, There are approximately 2,500 women in Colorado
10 and approximately 177,600 in the U.S. living with a history of ovarian
11 cancer, including those with active disease and those with no evidence of
12 disease; and

13 WHEREAS, There is no universally accepted screening test for
14 ovarian cancer such as the pap test for cervical cancer and the
15 mammogram for breast cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, Over 50% of ovarian cancers are initially
17 misdiagnosed because women and medical personnel are not aware of the
18 risk factors and symptoms of ovarian cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, In Colorado, only 45% of women diagnosed with
20 ovarian cancer will survive five years; and

21 WHEREAS, Only 18% of ovarian cancer diagnoses in Colorado
22 are at a pre-metastasis stage, at which the five-year survival rate is 93%,
23 and 81% of diagnoses are after metastasis, when the survival rate over
24 five years is only 35%; and

25 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis is key to survival; and

26 WHEREAS, Women and medical personnel must know the risk
27 factors and symptoms of ovarian cancer to reach an earlier-stage
28 diagnosis when there is a greater chance for survival; and

29 WHEREAS, Risk factors for ovarian cancer include: A personal
30 or family history of ovarian, breast, uterine, colon, or rectal cancer; being
31 of Jewish or Hispanic heritage; having no history of pregnancy, breast
32 feeding, or usage of birth control pills; early menopause; or late onset of

1 menses; and being over the age of 50; and

2 WHEREAS, Symptoms of ovarian cancer include abdominal
3 bloating or pressure, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling
4 full quickly, and urinary symptoms (urgency or frequency); and if one or
5 more of these symptoms persists for more than a few weeks, the woman
6 should see a gynecologist and request a combination pelvic/rectal exam,
7 a CA125 blood test, and a transvaginal ultrasound to rule out ovarian
8 cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, Other symptoms of ovarian cancer include nausea,
10 indigestion, or gas; abnormal vaginal bleeding; constipation or diarrhea;
11 unusual fatigue; unexplained weight loss or gain; shortness of breath; and
12 lower back pain; and

13 WHEREAS, In the State of Colorado, four nonprofit
14 organizations, the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance, HERA Women's
15 Cancer Foundation, the Cheryl Shackelford Foundation, and the Sue
16 DiNapoli Ovarian Cancer Foundation, are working to make women and
17 medical personnel aware of the risk factors and symptoms of ovarian
18 cancer, to encourage the attempt to rule out ovarian cancer when risk
19 factors or symptoms are present, and to offer support to ovarian cancer
20 survivors; now, therefore,

21 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly*
22 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

23 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

24 (1) Encourage all Colorado women and medical personnel to learn
25 the risk factors and symptoms of ovarian cancer and to act to rule out
26 ovarian cancer when the risk factors or symptoms are present;

27 (2) Declare that an accurate early detection screening test would
28 greatly improve the survival rate for women diagnosed with ovarian
29 cancer; and

30 (3) Encourage the funding of research to find such a test.

31 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
32 to Pep Torres, Executive Director and Mary Phillips, President of the
33 Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance; Meg Steitz, Executive Director of the

1 HERA Women's Cancer Foundation; Carol Cisler, President of the Cheryl
2 Shackelford Foundation; Laura Ayotte, President of the Sue DiNapoli
3 Ovarian Cancer Foundation; Dr. Richard Krugman, Dean of the
4 University of Colorado School of Medicine; and the members of the
5 Colorado Congressional Delegation.