A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 2022 as Cervical Health Awareness Month, acknowledging that cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening, and encouraging all women to schedule well-woman exams and Pap+HPV (co-testing) cervical cancer screening; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, since the introduction of the life-saving Pap test in the 1940s, cervical cancer rates have steadily declined in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, however, cervical cancer continues to affect women at an alarming rate. Every hour, a woman is diagnosed with cervical cancer, and every two hours a woman will die of this disease; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2021, there were an estimated 14,480 new cases and 4,290 deaths from cervical cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is not only treatable but can be preventable through regular screening; and
WHEREAS, Pap+HPV (co-testing) is the most widely adopted and preferred method for cervical cancer screening in the United States, and recent publications representative of clinical practice in the United States have shown that co-testing misses the fewest cancer/precursors to cancer and also indicate that 95 percent of cervical cancers have been detected by co-testing; and

WHEREAS, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic inequalities still exist, exacerbating the impact of cervical cancer on Black and Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, Black women in the United States are twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than are white women and are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer than any other racial group, and Hispanic women are 30 percent more likely to die of cervical cancer than are white women; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has widened health disparities. In a recent report, 46 percent of women indicated they put off preventative care and 32 percent skipped recommended medical tests and screenings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body recognize January 2022 as Cervical Health Awareness Month, acknowledge that cervical cancer is preventable through regular screening, and encourage all women to schedule well-woman exams and Pap+HPV (co-testing) cervical cancer screening.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.