

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0075L.011

Whereas, the Missouri General Assembly supports the development of a Women's Health
2 Platform that recognizes the serious inequities in the health prevention and treatment of women, and the
3 necessity to eliminate these inequities to improve the health status of women in the state of Missouri;
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Whereas, state government can increase its support for women's health and can make a
6 significant difference in improving the status of women's health; and
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Whereas, women are metabolically, hormonally and physiologically different from men
9 and have different patterns of health and disease, with some diseases occurring more commonly in
10 women than in men; and
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Whereas, women are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases, with more than one in
13 five women having some form of cardiovascular disease and one in two women experiencing an
14 osteoporosis-related fracture in her lifetime; and
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Whereas, women are three times more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis and two to
17 three times more likely to suffer from depression; and
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Whereas, women are less often referred for diagnostic testing and less often treated for
20 heart disease as compared to men; and
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Whereas, women, if they are smokers, are twenty to seventy percent more likely to
23 develop lung cancer and ten times more likely than men to contract HIV during unprotected sex; and
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26 **Whereas**, women are much more likely to provide health care to family members and
27 make health care decisions, and spend two of every three health care dollars; and
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29 **Whereas**, abundant evidence exists that women are under-treated compared to men and
30 are under-represented in women's health studies; and
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32 **Whereas**, while women's health care issues have received some national attention and
33 access issues have produced some legislative activity by the United States Congress, there remains little
34 change in vitally important preventive care and treatment issues; and
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36 **Whereas**, in a recent survey of voters, eighty percent of women and sixty percent of men
37 favored a Women's Health Care Platform that supports relevant care, relevant research and relevant
38 education for women; and
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40 **Whereas**, nine out of ten men and women agree that women have the right to access
41 quality treatment and access to the latest technologies and appropriate diagnostic tests:
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43 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
44 Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring
45 therein, hereby encourage every state agency and state-chartered institution of learning or recipient of
46 state grants or funding to take appropriate action to achieve improved and equal access for women to
47 quality health care, including:

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49 1. Providing women equal access to quality health care, including state-of-the-art medical
50 advances and technology;
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52 2. Increasing the number of women covered by comprehensive health care insurance, including
53 primary and preventive health care, for all women;
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55 3. Preventing serious health problems by timely diagnosis and treatment programs;
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57 4. Promoting strategies to increase patient access to recommended diagnostic and screening
58 tests, preventive health regimens and recommended treatments;
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- 60 5. Encouraging unimpeded access to women's specialty health providers;
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- 62 6. Creating and promoting public and private partnerships to create programs designed to
63 improve the scope and quality of women's health care;
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- 65 7. Improving communications between providers and patients;
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- 67 8. Continuing to expand participation of women in clinical trials;
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- 69 9. Increasing government and private research on women's health issues and the differences
70 between men and women and how they impact quality health care;
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- 72 10. Conducting more health outcomes research to demonstrate the value of women's health care
73 interventions and preventive health measures in both the long and short term;
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- 75 11. Expanding medical and nursing school curricula in the area of women's health and educating
76 about gender biology;
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- 78 12. Supporting public education campaigns to increase women's awareness about their unique
79 health risks, how to negotiate the complexities of today's health care system, and how to demand and
80 obtain the best care available;
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- 82 13. Conducting public health campaigns via state and local departments of public health with
83 private sector partners to focus on key women's preventive health issues;
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- 85 14. Assisting the Office of Women's Health within state government to raise awareness of
86 women's special health care needs and advocate initiatives to address them;
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- 88 15. Fostering development and dissemination of publicly available information on the quality
89 of health care and health outcomes that improve women's ability to choose the best women's health care
90 plan; and
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- 92 16. Expanding state screening programs targeted at lower-income women to include a full range
93 of known risks; and
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95 **Be it further resolved** that the members of the House of Representatives of the
96 Ninetieth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby commend
97 the Women In Government organization for its leadership and enterprise in bringing to Missouri the
98 appropriate urgency of need and meaningful steps that can be taken to attain the improved and equal

99 access for women to quality health care, technologies and treatments, education of researchers about
100 gender differences, and unimpeded access to women's health providers; and
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102 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
103 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for every state
104 agency, state-chartered institution of learning and recipient of state grants or funding related to health
105 care.