

2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 55

1 **Relating to:** supporting a women's health platform that recognizes serious
2 inequities in the health prevention and treatment of women and calls for the
3 elimination of these inequities to improve the health status of women in this
4 state.

5 Whereas, the state can increase its support for women's health and can make
6 a significant difference in improving the status of women's health; and

7 Whereas, women are different, metabolically, hormonally, and physiologically,
8 from men and have different patterns of health and disease, and some diseases are
9 more common in women than in men; and

10 Whereas, women have special needs and risks due to their childbearing ability;
11 and

12 Whereas, women are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases as more than
13 one in 5 women have some form of cardiovascular disease and one in 2 women will
14 have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her lifetime; and

1 Whereas, women are 3 times more likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis and
2 2 to 3 times more likely to suffer from depression; and

3 Whereas, women are less often referred for diagnostic tests and less often
4 treated for heart disease as compared to men; and

5 Whereas, women, if they are smokers, are 20% to 70% more likely to develop
6 lung cancer; and

7 Whereas, women are 10 times more likely than men to contract HIV during
8 heterosexual, unprotected sex; and

9 Whereas, women are biologically more susceptible to sexually transmitted
10 infections and are more likely to bear the negative, long-term consequences,
11 including involuntary sterilization and death; and

12 Whereas, women outnumber men 3 to one in long-term care facilities; and

13 Whereas, women are more likely to provide health care to family members and
14 make health care decisions, and women spend 2 of every 3 health care dollars; and

15 Whereas, there is abundant evidence that women are under-treated compared
16 to men; and

17 Whereas, there is abundant evidence that women are underrepresented in
18 women's health studies; and

19 Whereas, although there has been some national attention on women's health
20 care issues and legislative activity by Congress on access issues, there remains little
21 change in vitally important preventive care and treatment issues; and

22 Whereas, in a recent survey of voters, almost 80% of women and 60% of men
23 favored a women's health care platform that supports relevant care, relevant
24 research, and relevant education for women; and

1 Whereas, 9 out of 10 men and women agree that women have the right to access
2 quality treatment, the latest health care technologies, and appropriate diagnostic
3 tests; now, therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** every state agency and state-chartered
5 institution of learning or recipient of state grants or funding shall take appropriate
6 action to achieve improved and equal access for women to quality health care, which
7 includes all of the following:

8 (1) Providing women equal access to quality health care, including
9 state-of-the-art medical advances and technology.

10 (2) Increasing the number of women covered by comprehensive health care
11 insurance, including primary and preventive health care, for all women.

12 (3) Preventing serious health problems by timely diagnosis and treatment
13 programs.

14 (4) Promoting strategies to increase patient access to recommended diagnostic
15 and screening tests, preventive health regimens, and recommended treatments.

16 (5) Encouraging unhindered access to women's specialty health providers.

17 (6) Creating and promoting partnerships between public and private entities
18 to create programs designed to improve the scope and quality of women's health care.

19 (7) Improving communications between providers and patients.

20 (8) Expanding participation of women in clinical trials.

21 (9) Increasing government and private research on women's health issues and
22 the differences between men and women and how they impact quality health care.

23 (10) Conducting more health outcomes research to demonstrate the value of
24 women's health care interventions and preventive health measures in both the
25 long-term and short-term.

1 (11) Expanding medical and nursing school curricula in the area of women's
2 health and educating about gender biology.

3 (12) Supporting public education campaigns to increase women's awareness
4 about unique health risks, how to negotiate the complexities of today's health care
5 system, and to demand and obtain the best care available.

6 (13) Conducting public health campaigns via state and local departments of
7 public health with private sector partners to focus on key women's preventive health
8 issues.

9 (14) Urging the establishment of permanent offices of women's health within
10 state government to raise awareness of women's special health care needs and
11 advocating initiatives to address them.

12 (15) Fostering development and dissemination of publicly available
13 information on the quality of health care and health outcomes that improve a
14 woman's ability to choose the best women's health care plan.

15 (16) Expanding state screening programs targeted at lower-income women to
16 include a full range of known risk factors; and, be it further

17 ***Resolved, That*** the organization Women in Government is commended for its
18 leadership and enterprise in bringing to this state the appropriate urgency of need
19 and meaningful steps that can be taken to attain the improved and equal access for
20 women to quality health care, technologies, and treatments; education of
21 researchers about gender differences; and unhindered access to women's health
22 providers and this resolution does not request any person to take action to grant,
23 secure, or deny any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof.

24

(END)