

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION ON CERVICAL CANCER

Resolution Summary

Cervical cancer is largely preventable through regular screenings and early intervention, yet according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 9,710 new cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed and approximately 3,700 women will die from the disease this year in the United States. The greatest risk factor for cervical cancer is infection with certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 20 million people are currently infected with HPV, with 6.2 million new infections annually. Approximately 80 percent of sexually active women will be infected with HPV by age 50, but few will develop cervical cancer. Most HPV viruses go away on their own without causing any problems. Only HPV infection that persists for several years can put a woman at risk for cervical cancer.

This resolution seeks to encourage states to make cervical cancer the first cancer eliminated by assuring that women have access to preventive technologies and accurate information about cervical cancer and its link to HPV.

Additional Resource Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/>

American Cancer Society:

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_cervical_cancer_8.asp

Women in Government: <http://www.womeningovernment.org/home/>

Council of State Governments: Healthy States Quarterly. "Cervical Cancer Vaccine is Available", Summer 2006, <http://www.healthystates.csg.org/Publications/Newsletters/>

Cervical Cancer Prevention Management Directives

Management Directive #1: Support state efforts to raise awareness of the link between HPV and cervical cancer.

Management Directive # 2: Support and encourage state policy actions that assure access to cervical cancer preventive technologies for all women.

Management Directive # 3: CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's Web site and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

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WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide;

WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable; screening programs have helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical cancer, but approximately 3,700 will die from the disease this year in the United States;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is often attributable to a lack of education and a lack of access to regular cervical cancer screening;

WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information and access to routine screening, including the most accurate methods available, so that they can make informed health care decisions;

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is almost always caused by a common virus, human papillomavirus (HPV);

WHEREAS, HPV vaccination has been approved by the FDA for use for girls and women ages 9 to 26 and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that the vaccine be administered routinely to girls ages 11 and 12;

WHEREAS, HPV vaccine is a major advance in the prevention of cervical cancer, but will not replace the need for other preventive strategies, such as cervical Pap screening.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments supports and encourages state actions to improve cervical cancer prevention through policy initiatives that make cervical cancer elimination a priority by assuring that all women are educated about cervical cancer and the virus that causes it and have access to advanced screening and preventive technologies, such as HPV vaccine, Pap tests, and HPV tests, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages states to take the lead in developing and implementing programs to educate stakeholders about cervical cancer, HPV, and available preventive technologies.

Adopted this 3rd Day of December, 2006 at the
CSG 2006 Annual Trends and Leadership Forum
In Phoenix, Arizona



Governor Jim Douglas
2006 CSG President



Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
2006 CSG Chair