

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 'ENDING CERVICAL CANCER IN OUR
LIFETIME'**

Resolution Summary

Cervical cancer has the potential to be ended in this lifetime. Medical advancements establish a range of facts in regard to cervical cancer. Nearly all cases of this cancer are caused by infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus spread by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area. HPV often causes no symptoms and clears on its own, but persistent HPV infection can lead to cervical cancer.

A Pap test may detect early cell changes in a woman's cervix which may lead to cervical cancer. Low-cost and free Pap tests are available in every state to eligible persons. Found early, cervical cancer is potentially curable. Yet, the American Cancer Society says 11,150 American women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2007, and about 3,700 will die from it.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a vaccine for use in girls to help prevent against cervical cancer infection. States and territories have taken a myriad of approaches to the HPV vaccine, and other HPV vaccines which may become available. CSG passed a resolution in 2006 with a directive to support state efforts to raise awareness of the link between HPV and cervical cancer. The resolution further encouraged states to show leadership in developing and implementing programs to educate stakeholders on HPV, cervical cancer, and available preventive technologies.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), a CSG affiliate, developed an original educational brochure on cervical cancer. The brochure notes the connection between HPV and cervical cancer, encourages regular Pap tests, and educates on the availability of a vaccine. The goal is to pass the information through direct constituent education and earned press coverage. The brochure won an Addy award for design, a Women in Government Leadership Award, and is recognized as one of the nation's six best association public service efforts this year. As directed by the previous resolution, CSG recognizes and supports NLGA's 'Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime.'

Additional Resource Information

National Lieutenant Governors Association [http://www.nlga.us/web-content/Projects/End Cerv Cancer Main.htm](http://www.nlga.us/web-content/Projects/End_Cerv_Cancer_Main.htm)

Women in Government www.womeningovernment.org

**The Council of State Governments
<http://www.csg.org/policy/documents/CervicalCancerPreventionResolution.pdf>**

Management Directives

Management Directive #1: CSG will support its affiliate, NLGA, in this effort, and shall, in this campaign and other such efforts, encourage multi-branch efforts in regard to cervical cancer efforts

Management Directive #2: CSG staff will post this resolution to its Web site, and will continue to publish information about this campaign in CSG outlets

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WHEREAS, cervical cancer is a nearly preventable disease, yet 11,150 American women are expected to be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2007 and about 3,700 will die from it, according to the American Cancer Society, and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the second most common form of cancer found in women and it may be curable if found at an early stage, and

WHEREAS, a virus called human papillomavirus (HPV) causes 99.7 percent of all cervical cancer cases and whereas nearly all sexually active adults will be infected with HPV at some point in their life since HPV is spread by skin to skin contact in the genital area, according to the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and

WHEREAS, HPV causes no symptoms and usually goes away on its own, however, high-risk HPV which stays in the body a period of years can cause cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, a Pap test, a simple, painless test done in minutes in a doctor's office or clinic, may detect abnormal cells in the cervix caused by HPV which precede cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer can be prevented or cured by removing the abnormal cells before they become cancerous and whereas, often, there are no early symptoms so women should have Pap tests done regularly, and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, cervical cancer affects women in every demographic, with the incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer highest among African American and Hispanic women, and with more than half the women who now develop cervical cancer having either rarely or never had a Pap test, and

WHEREAS, if a woman thinks she cannot afford a Pap test, she should call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) where she will be connected with a program in her state providing free or low-cost Pap testing to low-income, uninsured, and underserved women, and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments 2006 Resolution on Adult Preventive Health Care Services resolved to encourage leaders to become champions in the arena of disease prevention policy and wellness, and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments 2006 Resolution on Cervical Cancer directed CSG to support state efforts to develop and implement educational campaigns on cervical cancer, and

WHEREAS, the nation's "seconds-in-command" through the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) 'Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime' campaign are now distributing information about HPV, cervical cancer, abstinence, the availability of Pap smears, and the availability of a HPV vaccine to people so they make the connection between the virus and the cancer and make informed decisions on their health, and

WHEREAS, NLGA is an affiliate of CSG, and

WHEREAS, this campaign is reaching 16 states and territories to date, and

WHEREAS, the well-designed, comprehensive and wholly educational nature of this original campaign has received recognition from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), Women in Government (WIG), and the Advertising Club,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments supports the NLGA effort and the 'Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime' campaign, and

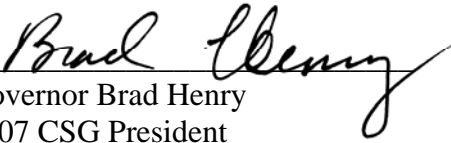
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state officials support comprehensive education on the established facts regarding cervical cancer including abstinence, Pap testing and its availability, and the availability of a HPV vaccine, and that this support may be in the form of personal initiative, legislative, budgetary or executive authority, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CSG will establish a Web link to the NLGA educational web site on the topic via this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CSG will encourage multi-branch opportunities for education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we can end cervical cancer in our lifetime. Pass the information on to someone you know and help save a life.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2007 at the
CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum
in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma


Governor Brad Henry
2007 CSG President


Representative Deborah Hudson
2007 CSG Chair