

House Resolution 3

By: Representatives Waites of the 60th, Jones of the 53rd, Scott of the 76th, Thomas of the 56th, and Beasley-Teague of the 65th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the National Strategic Action Convening for State Legislators on Reproductive
2 Rights and Justice Center for Women Policy Studies for adopting a policy resolution on
3 women's reproductive rights on July 15-17, 2011; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, women comprise more than half of the population of the United States of
5 America and are solely responsible for childbearing; and

6 WHEREAS, women who plan their pregnancies are more likely to seek prenatal care,
7 improving their own health and the health of their children; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States of America ranks 30th in the world in its rate of maternal
9 mortality and has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality among all developed nations;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, family planning services improve health care outcomes and wellness for women
12 and families, access to family planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant
13 mortality rates, and women who do not receive prenatal care are three to four times more
14 likely to die after a live birth than are women who have received even minimal prenatal care;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, contraception enables women to better prevent unintended pregnancies and plan
17 for pregnancy when they do want to have a child, and publicly funded contraceptive services
18 and supplies prevent nearly two million unintended pregnancies each year in the United
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, nearly half of all unintended pregnancies end in abortion and abortion rates in
21 the United States of America increase during times when contraception is less accessible to
22 low income women; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States of America has one of the highest rates of unintended
24 pregnancy among the world's developed nations, half of all the pregnancies in the United
25 States are unintended, and half of unintended pregnancies occur in women who are not using
26 contraceptives; and

27 WHEREAS, in addition to the primary purpose of allowing women to plan and prepare for
28 pregnancy, other health benefits of contraception include reduced risk of endometrial and
29 ovarian cancers, ectopic pregnancy, iron deficiency anemia related to heavy menstruation,
30 osteoporosis, ovarian cysts, and pelvic inflammatory disease; and

31 WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are particularly pronounced in reproductive
32 health - including disparities in rates of contraception usage, unintended pregnancies,
33 maternal mortality, and sexually transmitted infections - and these disparities reveal
34 significant barriers to access to sexual health care (including contraception), medical care,
35 and medically accurate sexuality education; and

36 WHEREAS, a majority of American voters believe that matters related to women's
37 reproductive rights, including contraception and abortion, are personal issues that should be
38 decided by women with their families, health care providers and/or clergy members.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the National Strategic Action Convening for State Legislators on Reproductive Rights and
41 Justice Center for Women Policy Studies is commended for adopting a policy resolution on
42 women's reproductive rights on July 15-17, 2011.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the week of January 22-28, 2013, is recognized as
44 Reproductive Rights Awareness Week to encourage public awareness, conversation, and
45 support for reproductive rights and justice nationwide.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the original authors of the policy resolution,
47 Representative Lori Berman (Florida), Representative Beth Kerttula (Alaska), and Senator
48 Charleta B. Tavares (Ohio) are commended for their work.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
50 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the National Strategic Action
51 Convening for State Legislators on Reproductive Rights and Justice Center for Women
52 Policy Studies and the original authors of the policy resolution.