

House Resolution 1532

By: Representatives Campbell of the 35th, Roberts of the 52nd, McQueen of the 61st, Alexander of the 66th, Taylor of the 173rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the designation of September 2026 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness
2 Month; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the fifth-leading cause of cancer deaths of women in the
4 United States and causes more deaths than any other gynecologic cancer; and

5 WHEREAS, in the United States, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian
6 cancer is about one in 91; and

7 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society estimates 20,890 cases of ovarian cancer will be
8 newly diagnosed in 2026, and 12,730 individuals will die from the disease nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, the five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 51.6 percent, and survival rates
10 vary greatly depending on the stage of diagnosis; and

11 WHEREAS, the five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is over 90 percent for individuals
12 diagnosed in early stages; and

13 WHEREAS, while the mammogram can detect breast cancer and the pap smear can detect
14 cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer
16 symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier
17 for women to learn and remember those symptoms; and

18 WHEREAS, Black women with ovarian cancer are more likely to have late-stage diagnoses,
19 receive lower quality clinical services, and have lower five-year survival rates than
20 non-Black women; and

21 WHEREAS, Black women have a five-year ovarian cancer mortality rate of 62 percent,
22 while the five-year ovarian cancer mortality rate is 54 percent for White women; and

23 WHEREAS, women of color, low-income women, and women living in rural areas have
24 more barriers to accessing a standard quality of care and are more likely to receive care at
25 a facility that has poorer adherence to National Comprehensive Cancer Network treatment
26 guidelines; and

27 WHEREAS, the proportion of ovarian cancer cases in women serving on active duty who
28 are less than 45 years of age is substantially greater than in the general population; and

29 WHEREAS, too many people remain unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often
30 include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary
31 symptoms, and several other vague symptoms that are often easily confused with other
32 diseases; and

33 WHEREAS, improved awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by the public and health
34 care providers can lead to quicker diagnoses and more treatment opportunities; and

35 WHEREAS, the lack of an early detection test for ovarian cancer combined with its vague
36 symptoms mean that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an
37 advanced stage; and

38 WHEREAS, issues collecting and reporting data on treatment and outcomes related to
39 ovarian cancer risk, especially for underserved communities and marginalized populations,
40 can impede the development of effective policy; and

41 WHEREAS, all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, but approximately 20 percent of
42 women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary predisposition to ovarian
43 cancer, which places them at even higher risk; and

44 WHEREAS, scientists and physicians have uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some
45 women inherit from their parents, which may make those women 30 times more likely to
46 develop ovarian cancer; and

47 WHEREAS, the family history of a woman has been found to play an important role in
48 accurately assessing her risk of developing ovarian cancer, and medical experts believe that
49 family history should be taken into consideration during the annual well-woman visit of any
50 woman; and

51 WHEREAS, those women who have a family history of ovarian or breast cancer should
52 consider genetic testing and counseling to determine whether their risk of developing a
53 heritable cancer is elevated; and

54 WHEREAS, women who know that they are at high risk of ovarian cancer may undertake
55 prophylactic measures like an opportunistic salpingectomy to help reduce the risk of
56 developing this disease; and

57 WHEREAS, guidelines issued by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and the
58 Society of Gynecologic Oncology recommend that all individuals diagnosed with ovarian
59 cancer receive genetic counseling and genetic testing regardless of their family history; and

60 WHEREAS, studies consistently show that compliance with these guidelines is alarmingly
61 low, with recently published National Cancer Institute-funded research finding that in 2013
62 and 2014, only one-third of ovarian cancer survivors have undergone such testing; and

63 WHEREAS, according to a 2016 consensus report by the National Academy of Medicine,
64 "there remain surprising gaps in the fundamental knowledge about and understanding of
65 ovarian cancer" across all aspects of the disease; and

66 WHEREAS, ovarian cancer research remains underfunded relative to its mortality rate,
67 making increased Federal investment critical to progress; and

68 WHEREAS, ongoing investments in ovarian cancer research and education and awareness
69 efforts are critical to closing these gaps and improving survivorship for women with ovarian
70 cancer; and

71 WHEREAS, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer Research
72 Alliance and community partner organizations hold a number of events to increase public
73 awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms; and

74 WHEREAS, to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer, September 2026 should be
75 designated as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
77 the members of this body support the goals and ideals of the designation of September 2026
78 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
80 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
81 public and the press.