

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 476

Supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of National Prematurity Awareness Month.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## **RESOLUTION**

Supporting the goals, activities, and ideals of National Prematurity Awareness Month.

Whereas preterm birth is a serious and growing problem;

Whereas, between 1982 and 2002, the rate of preterm birth increased 27 percent;

Whereas, in 2002, more than 480,000 babies were born prematurely in the United States;

Whereas 25 percent of all babies that die in the first month of life were born preterm;

Whereas premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in the first year of life;

Whereas premature babies who survive may suffer lifelong consequences, including cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing loss;

Whereas preterm birth and low birthweight are a significant financial burden in health care;

Whereas, in 2002, the estimated charges for hospital stays for infants with a diagnosis of preterm birth or low birthweight were \$15,500,000,000, a 12 percent increase since 2001;

Whereas the average lifetime medical costs of a premature baby are conservatively estimated at \$500,000;

Whereas the cause of approximately half of all preterm births is unknown;

Whereas women who smoke during pregnancy are twice as likely as women who do not smoke during pregnancy to give birth to a low birthweight baby, and babies born to women who smoke during pregnancy weigh, on average, 200 grams less than babies born to women who do not smoke during pregnancy; and

Whereas to reduce the rates of preterm labor and delivery more research is needed on the underlying causes of preterm delivery, prevention of preterm birth so that babies are born full-term, and treatments improving outcomes for infants born prematurely: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes during the  
2 month of November, 2004, activities and programs that  
3 promote awareness of and solutions to the dangers of  
4 preterm birth across the United States.

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