

## **H. Res. 1522**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U. S.,***

*September 15, 2010.*

Whereas it is estimated that 750,000 people in the United States carry a gene mutation that causes a predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer;

Whereas approximately 5 to 7 percent of breast cancer and 10 to 14 percent of ovarian cancers are hereditary;

Whereas women with these mutations have up to an 84 percent chance of developing breast cancer in their lifetime;

Whereas women with a BRCA genetic mutation have up to a 50 percent lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer;

Whereas the single greatest ovarian cancer risk factor is a family history of the disease;

Whereas hereditary cancers are often more aggressive than other cancers and occur at a younger age, when people are less likely to undergo cancer screening;

Whereas breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women under the age of 54;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the leading cause of gynecologic cancer death;

Whereas individuals with a hereditary risk for cancer require different cancer screening and risk management recommendations than the general population;

Whereas inherited BRCA genetic mutations are found in approximately 1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jews and mutations have been found in people of every ethnic group;

Whereas more than one-third of Jewish women diagnosed with ovarian cancer or primary peritoneal cancer at any age, or breast cancer before age 40, carry an inherited BRCA mutation;

Whereas African-Americans and Hispanic Americans are less likely to have access to hereditary cancer information and appropriate health care;

Whereas children of parents with an inherited predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer have a 50 percent chance of inheriting the predisposition;

Whereas among many in the cancer community, a “previvor” is a survivor of a predisposition (or increased risk) to cancer;

Whereas genetic counseling and genetic testing can determine if an individual is at high risk for breast or ovarian cancer;

Whereas raising awareness of hereditary cancer and knowledge of a genetic predisposition can directly lead to preventive strategies that can reduce the chance of dying from cancer;

Whereas the last week of September would be an appropriate week to designate as National Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Week; and

Whereas the last Wednesday in September would be an appropriate date to designate as National Previvor Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Week; and

(2) supports the designation of National Previvor Day.

Attest:

*Clerk.*