

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 521

Expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 2016

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of September 2016 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas in 2016, approximately 22,280 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,240 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the “War on Cancer” was declared more than 40 years ago;

Whereas a quarter of women will die within 1 year of diagnosis with ovarian cancer and over half will die within 5 years;

Whereas there is the mammogram to detect breast cancer and the Pap smear to detect cervical cancer, there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas the lack of an early detection test means that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and approximately 20 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary disposition for ovarian cancer, which places them at even a higher risk;

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

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

Whereas many experts in health prevention now recommend genetic testing for young women with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer;

Whereas women who know they are at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures to help reduce the risk of developing these diseases;

Whereas the Society of Gynecologic Oncology now recommends that all women diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive counseling and genetic testing;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by women and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

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

Whereas each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance and the partner members hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2016 should be designated as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates September 2016 as “National  
3       Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month”; and

4               (2) supports the goals and ideals of National  
5       Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

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