

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 792

WHEREAS, Sufficient folic acid in women's diets before and during pregnancy can reduce the risk of birth defects of the brain and spinal cord known as neural tube defects; in the United States, neural tube defects occur in about one out of every 1,000 pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that neural tube defects can be prevented if women consume the proper amounts of folic acid before becoming pregnant and during early pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board, the United States Public Health Service, and the United States Preventive Services Task Force have recommended that women who are of reproductive age should consume 400 micrograms of synthetic folic acid every day from a vitamin or from fortified foods, in addition to eating a healthy diet rich in natural sources of folate; and

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes found that while public awareness is improving, many women still do not know the benefits of regularly consuming folic acid; 84 percent of women have heard of folic acid; 39 percent take a daily vitamin containing it; 20 percent know that folic acid prevents birth defects, and 11 percent know it should be taken before pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes found that health professionals have not been the main source of women's information about folic acid and of women's awareness about folic acid; 49 percent of women have learned about it from the media, and 33 percent received their information from their physician or other health care provider; and

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WHEREAS, A public education campaign about the value of folic acid in the diets of women of childbearing age would raise awareness of this vital health issue and inform citizens throughout the state, as well as state agencies, boards, and task forces, about how women can lower their risk for birth defects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby support a public education campaign on the importance of folic acid in the diets of women of childbearing age in order to help prevent neural tube and other birth defects; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for those working to increase public awareness about folic acid as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Jackson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 14, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate