



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 20-1174, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING EQUAL HOPE AND RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is still the second most common type of cancer for women worldwide and nearly 13,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year with more than 4,000 women dying as a result of this diagnosis, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening such as Pap and HPV tests; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of cervical cancer in Chicago is 39% higher than the national average and the death rate is 60% higher, according to data from the National Cancer Institute; and

WHEREAS, HPV is the #1 cause of cervical cancer; however, HPV vaccines can help prevent infection from both high-risk HPV types that can lead to cervical cancer and low risk types that cause genital warts; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends all boys and girls get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12, but vaccination is available through age 26; and

WHEREAS, the vaccine produces a stronger immune response when taken during the preteen years, and it is for this reason that up until age 14, only two doses of the vaccine are required; and

WHEREAS, young women and men can get the vaccine up to age 26, but for those 15 and older, a full three-dose series is needed; and

WHEREAS, it's important to recognize outstanding work being done here in Illinois and Cook County by our community partners such as Equal Hope; and

WHEREAS, Equal Hope is a not-for-profit organization originally set up in 2008 as the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force after the publication of disturbing research that showed that Chicago had large and growing racial disparities in breast cancer mortality; and

WHEREAS, women of color are disproportionately affected with Black and Latina women nearly three times more likely to die of cervical cancer than white women in Chicago, and drastic variations exist among neighborhoods; women living in Washington Park, for example, are 85 times more likely to die of cervical cancer than women living in adjacent Hyde Park; and

WHEREAS, Equal Hope's mission is to save women's lives by eliminating health disparities in Illinois, originally through the lens of breast cancer and now expanded to cervical cancer and other women's cancers; addressing women's health holistically by helping women establish medical homes with the goal of eliminating inequities in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship for all women; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body wishes to promote and raise awareness of National Cervical Health Awareness Month

in Cook County and to recognize the good work of Equal Hope in combatting this “silent killer” of women;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the more than 5.2 million residents of Cook County, do hereby take this opportunity to acknowledge National Cervical Health Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conjunction with National Cervical Health Awareness Month, that the month of January be hereby declared Cervical Health Awareness Month in the County of Cook; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body and that a suitable copy be presented to Equal Hope in recognition of National Cervical Health Awareness Month.