

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS
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September 27, 2022

Proclaiming September 2022 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

This year, more than 12,810 women will lose their lives to ovarian cancer – the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers—and more than 19,880 of our treasured mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters will be diagnosed with this terrible disease.¹ Every day across Los Angeles County (County), friends, families, and communities face the pain and heartache of ovarian cancer while also empowering and supporting those who are fighting for their lives, offering hope for a cancer-free future. During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, the County honors those who have lost their lives to the disease, recognizes all those who know the pain of the disease, and extends our full support to raise ovarian cancer awareness and the funding that it deserves.

Ovarian cancer is difficult to detect and cannot be diagnosed early enough to provide life-saving treatment. Due to a lack of effective screening tests and early signs of

¹ “Key Statistics for Ovarian Cancer.” American Cancer Society, 2021

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symptoms, many cases will be detected at an advanced stage – reducing the chances for recovery and making the cancer more difficult to treat. Regular medical checkups, increased awareness of symptoms, and knowledge of risk factors of ovarian cancer will enhance chances of early detection and survival from the disease. Additionally, it is crucial for those with symptoms – including nausea, gastrointestinal complaints, vomiting, bloating, abdominal pain, and difficulty with eating or urinating – to consult with their health care providers to facilitate a potentially life-saving early diagnosis.

Our greatest tool to prevent deaths from ovarian cancer is in the work of cancer biologists, epidemiologists, and other researchers who have worked tirelessly to advance a cancer-free future and provide treatment and care for those who have lost their lives to the disease. The medical community continues to develop advanced screening mechanisms and treatment therapies while working towards a future cure for ovarian cancer. Further research is also needed to understand the overall course of this disease and the factors associated with the underlying disparities across biological factors, behavioral factors, and societal influences in ovarian cancer survival.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of September 2022 as “Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” in Los Angeles County and encourage all County residents, County Departments, government agencies, organizations, businesses, health care providers, and research institutions to raise ovarian cancer awareness and continue to work towards a cure for ovarian cancer.

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