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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 145**

Offered January 11, 2012

Prefiled January 11, 2012

*Designating May, in 2012 and in each succeeding year, as Preeclampsia Awareness Month in Virginia.*

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Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, preeclampsia is a dangerous condition of pregnancy that can, in its severest form, lead to maternal or infant mortality or premature birth with significant health risks for the mother and baby; and

WHEREAS, more than 350,000 cases of preeclampsia are diagnosed in the United States every year with 25 percent of the cases classified as severe; and

WHEREAS, every six minutes of every day in the United States, a pregnant woman and her baby face life-threatening consequences because of preeclampsia; and

WHEREAS, public education as to the symptoms of preeclampsia—spikes in maternal blood pressure; sudden swelling of feet, face, and hands; severe upper abdominal pain; blurred vision—can help women recognize the condition and seek appropriate medical care; and

WHEREAS, many citizens of Virginia have joined with the Preeclampsia Foundation to raise public awareness in order to minimize maternal and infant illness and death due to preeclampsia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate May, in 2012 and in each succeeding year, as Preeclampsia Awareness Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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