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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 11, 2016

Designating the first Friday in February, in 2017 and in each succeeding year, as Wear Red Day in Virginia.

Patrons—Vogel, Chase, Dance, Dunnavant, Favola, Howell, Locke, Lucas and Wexton

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death among women in the United States, but 80 percent of cardiac events could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, cardiovascular diseases and stroke cause one in three women's deaths each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds; an estimated 44 million women in the United States are affected by cardiovascular diseases; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease, but only 20 percent of American women believe that heart disease is the greatest threat to their health; and

WHEREAS, only 36 percent of African American women and 34 percent of Hispanic women know that heart disease is the greatest threat to their health, compared to 65 percent of Caucasian women; and

WHEREAS, since 1984, more women than men have died from heart disease each year, but women comprise only 24 percent of participants in heart-related health studies; and

WHEREAS, when experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, women are less likely to call 911 for themselves than if they witnessed someone else experiencing symptoms of a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, women involved in the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement live healthier lives; nearly 90 percent of women involved with the movement have made at least one healthy behavior change; and

WHEREAS, the Go Red for Women movement encourages women to Get your own numbers: check blood pressure and cholesterol levels; Own your lifestyle: stop smoking, lose weight, exercise, and eat healthy; Raise your voice: advocate for more women-related research and education; Educate your family: teach the importance of healthy food choices and staying active; and Donate: show your support through donations of time or money; and

WHEREAS, all Virginians are encouraged to show their support for women and the fight against heart disease and commemorate Wear Red Day by wearing the color red, increasing awareness about heart disease, and empowering women to reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, Wear Red Day in Virginia was originally designated as February 1, in 2013 and in each succeeding year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate the first Friday in February, in 2017 and in each succeeding year, as Wear Red Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the American Heart Association so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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