

Senator Schuitmaker offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 100.

A resolution observing November 17, 2011, as World Prematurity Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Prematurity has been increasing steadily and alarmingly over the past two decades. One out of eight babies is born prematurely in the United States. Every year, an estimated 13 million babies worldwide are born too soon and too small. More than a million of these tiny babies do not survive; and

Whereas, Half of all neurological disabilities in children are related to premature birth. Premature babies face an increased risk of serious medical complications and death, including lasting disabilities such as cerebral palsy, intellectual and developmental disabilities, chronic lung disease, and vision and hearing problems; and

Whereas, Doctors have made marvelous advances in caring for babies born too soon and too small. We need to find ways to prevent preterm birth from happening in the first place; and

Whereas, Women who have had a previous preterm birth, who are pregnant with twins, triplets or more, or women with certain uterine or cervical abnormalities are more at risk for having premature births. Preterm labor and delivery can happen to any pregnant woman; and

Whereas, Organizations such as the March of Dimes have worked tirelessly to raise public awareness of the problems of prematurity and to decrease the rate of preterm birth in the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body observe November 17, 2011, as World Prematurity Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the March of Dimes with our highest esteem.