A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge support of the "Screen at 23" campaign regarding the screening of Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Approximately 103,800 Asian Americans in Ohio are expected to have diabetes or prediabetes by 2025, according to the Institute for Alternative Futures; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Health Statistics in the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, Results from the United States National Interview Survey, 1997 - 2008, show that Asian Americans are over 30% more likely to have diabetes than Caucasian Americans; and

WHEREAS, According to researchers at the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard University, Asian Americans are also at a greater risk of developing prediabetes, type 2 diabetes, and
associated risks (such as cardiovascular disease) at a lower body mass index (BMI) than Caucasians, Hispanics, African-Americans, and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Joslin researchers have found that Asian Americans face a health care disparity in type 2 diabetes detection and diagnosis, due in part to general guidelines calling for screening at a BMI of 25 kg/m², which misses 36% of type 2 diabetes diagnoses in Asian Americans, or nearly 6,500 Ohioans. These guidelines also cause underestimates of prediabetes prevalence among Asian Americans and the increased risk of both prediabetes and type 2 diabetes among Asian Americans younger than 45 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The CDC reports that almost 70% of people with diabetes over age 65 will die of some type of heart disease, and about one in six will die of stroke. People with diabetes can experience very high blood-glucose levels, a condition that causes damage to nerves and blood vessels. This, in turn, puts them at risk for developing end stage renal disease and kidney failure, blindness, and lower limb loss; and

WHEREAS, People with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those without diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, total direct medical expenses for diagnosed diabetes in Ohio were estimated at $9 billion in 2017. In addition, another $3.3 billion was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Early detection and treatment can mitigate diabetes-related complications, risks, and costs; and

WHEREAS, Interventions focused on nutrition, physical activity, and healthy weight loss have been shown to reverse prediabetes, improve glucose function in persons with type 2
diabetes, and reduce their need for multiple medications; and

WHEREAS, Screening Asian American patients for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 kg/m2 instead of 25 kg/m2 would detect over 4,000 cases of this disease, and many thousands more of prediabetes cases in Ohio, and would lead to more screenings of Asian Americans younger than 45 who have a BMI of 23 or more and are at risk for type 2 diabetes. Such efforts are likely to lead to the initiation of treatment or early interventions to reduce negative comorbidities such as heart disease, kidney disease, and limb amputation; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health found that more than half of Asian Americans with type 2 diabetes are undiagnosed, greatly increasing their overall health risk; and

WHEREAS, Recent analysis of cross-sectional national data show that Asian Americans are the least likely ethnic group to receive recommended diabetes screening, with a 34% lower rate of diabetes screening than Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization recommends screening Asian patients for type 2 diabetes at a lower BMI than non-Hispanic whites, and the 2015 guidelines of the American Diabetes Association recommend that Asian Americans be tested for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 kg/m2; and

WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Diabetes Coalition has coordinated the "Screen at 23" campaign with support from over 40 national and regional health organizations; and

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio has the opportunity to join California, Hawaii, Washington, Illinois, and Massachusetts to become the sixth state to formally recognize and recommend the screening of adult Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 kg/m2, enabling thousands to receive the early care and
treatment needed to live healthier, happier lives; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, endorse and support the Screen at 23 campaign's efforts to increase awareness of diabetes among Asian Americans, including the use of appropriate screening measures for Asian American patients, and to eliminate disparities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, recommend that the Ohio Department of Health actively encourage, through existing communication protocols and internal mechanisms, all public and private health care providers and facilities to participate in the Screen at 23 campaign efforts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Director of Health, and the news media of Ohio.