

RESOLUTION NO. 3
UTERINE CANCER AWARENESS

The uterus, or womb, is one of the most important female reproductive organs, specifically the place where a baby grows when a woman is pregnant.

Uterine cancer is the most prevalent cancer of the female reproductive tract, making up 13 percent of all cancers in women.

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 40,100 women were predicted to develop this form of malignance in 2008 in the United States and over 41,000 women in 2009.

Survival rates are significantly less for women diagnosed at more advanced stages of the disease and who lack health insurance or have poor access to care.

Data from the National Cancer Institute indicates that Caucasian women have the highest rate of uterine cancer and Hispanic women tend to develop it at a younger age. A 2009 Columbia University study shows that Black women have a mortality rate 60 percent higher than Caucasian women.

The symptoms of uterine cancer may include unusual vaginal bleeding or discharge, trouble urinating, pelvic pain and/or pain during intercourse. The most common symptom in 90% of women is postmenopausal bleeding which may be mistaken as normal.

Tools available to increase survival rates for uterine cancer include awareness of symptoms, early diagnosis through a physical examination, medical history and assessment of risk factors, pelvic examination, tests such as biopsy, vaginal ultrasound and other procedures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) supports the American Cancer Society by promoting education and awareness on uterine and other cancers, encouraging women to have annual exams and learn about the female reproductive system, disease management and other ways to safeguard their health;

CLUW recognizes the months of January and October as cancer campaign months and continues its commitment to empower women by providing information on cancer prevention, early detection, risk factor information, screening and treatment methods;

To increase knowledge about uterine, cervical, breast, ovarian, lung and other cancers that plague so many thousands of women in our country, CLUW urges delegates and members to disseminate information about cancer and to advocate cancer prevention activities that save lives by having vigilant on-going programs within their respective chapters, local unions and communities.