

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No.

Adopt Resolution proclaiming April 2013
Cesarean Awareness month in Monterey County

WHEREAS; Monterey County residents need to join together in raising awareness of the risks and benefits of Cesarean births and to support educational programs for health professionals, patients, and the public.

WHEREAS: This year, more than one-third of all babies in Monterey County will be born via Cesarean section, a serious abdominal surgery, but one that can be lifesaving for both mother and baby in medically appropriate circumstances; and

WHEREAS; The national and state Cesarean-section rates remain higher than the 15-percent average recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), which estimates that half of all Cesarean sections performed in the United States may be preventable; and

WHEREAS; The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' program, Healthy People 2020, has set a goal to reduce the Cesarean rate among low-risk, first-time mothers and for women with prior C-sections; and

WHEREAS, Women who undergo Cesarean births have a longer recovery time and are subject to increased complications, including difficulties in their future reproductive lives, with increased rates of unexplained stillbirths, placental abnormalities, and uterine ruptures; and

WHEREAS; Maternal-child health is improved by preventing unnecessary C-sections through education; through providing support for Cesarean recoveries, including physical and emotional support; and by promoting vaginal birth after Cesarean births; and

WHEREAS; Natividad Medical Center is recognized as currently being the only hospital in Monterey County where women may choose a vaginal birth after cesarean; and

WHEREAS: Monterey County women have the right to full and complete information about the risks and benefits of natural and Cesarean births and the corresponding right to make informed choices about their health care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, on behalf of all the citizens thereof, do hereby proclaim April 2013, as CESAREAN AWARENESS MONTH, and urge residents of our County to join together in raising awareness of the risks and benefits of Cesarean births, the availability of vaginal birth after cesarean at Natividad Medical Center, and to support educational programs for health professionals, patients, and the public.