

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To designate March 2022 as Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed forms of cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, approximately 287,850 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and an estimated 43,250 will die from this malignancy; and

WHEREAS, triple negative breast cancer is one of many forms of breast cancer, and accounts for about 15 to 30% of all invasive breast cancer cases diagnosed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, of the new breast cancer cases diagnosed in the United States, more than 53,700 were cases of triple negative breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, triple negative breast cancer is more prevalent in younger women, black and Hispanic women, women with type 2 diabetes, women who carry excess weight in the abdomen area, and women with BRCA1 mutations; and

WHEREAS, due to its aggressive nature, triple negative breast cancer grows quickly, is more likely to have spread by the time it is found, and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, people diagnosed with metastatic triple negative breast cancer have a less than 30% chance of surviving past five years; and

WHEREAS, triple negative breast cancer cells do not contain, and are considered negative for, the three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers, thus limiting the treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer; and

WHEREAS, patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available for the treatment of triple negative breast cancer has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians; and

WHEREAS, recent therapeutic innovations have fueled impressive advancements in the fight against triple negative breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that triple negative breast cancer disease-specific mortality rates are often higher if patients have Medicaid or Medicare or are of lower socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, studies also show that, compared with non-Hispanic white women, black women are 48% less likely to receive guideline-adherent care, and thus have a two-fold higher mortality incidence than their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, over the last few decades, advances in screening and treatment have led to a reduction in the overall breast cancer mortality rate over the last few decades; even so, the disproportionate impact of triple negative breast cancer on minority communities raises the question of the underlying determinants that drive the disparities in health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Legislature of Louisiana to promote education about triple negative breast cancer, to raise awareness about the aforementioned disparities with respect to treatment of the disease and health outcomes, and to address inequities within the health care system with respect to screening, diagnostic testing, and care that hinder early detection and treatment of the disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate March 2022 as Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana and does hereby express support for health promotion initiatives and legislation that target underserved communities with respect to the treatment of this dreadful disease.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES