

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 1320

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, While overall cancer incidence and mortality rates  
2 are on the decline in the United States, the disease continues to  
3 disproportionately impact the lives of members of minority racial  
4 and ethnic groups; and

5           WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, African  
6 American men are 36 percent more likely to die from cancer than  
7 white men, and African American women are 17 percent more likely to  
8 die from cancer than their white counterparts; Hispanic Americans  
9 of both sexes have lower rates for all cancers combined but higher  
10 rates for certain types, including uterine, cervical, and stomach  
11 cancer; and

12           WHEREAS, These differences are believed to be rooted in  
13 socioeconomic factors, including higher levels of poverty among  
14 some minority groups; as poverty coincides with reduced access to  
15 health insurance, minorities often delay seeking diagnosis and  
16 treatment for health problems, resulting in cancer being detected  
17 at more advanced stages with a far less optimistic prognosis; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2011, the Texas Legislature designated April as  
19 Minority Cancer Awareness Month in a bill authored by  
20 Representative Ruth Jones McClendon, herself a cancer survivor;  
21 backed by health and advocacy groups across the state and nation,  
22 this important observance serves to raise awareness of the issue of  
23 cancer inequality and the lifesaving power of prevention and early  
24 detection; now, therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby recognize April 2013 as Minority Cancer  
3 Awareness Month and encourage all Texans to learn more about  
4 preventative measures and to seek medical attention at the first  
5 warning signs of cancer.