

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 1444

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 the most common cancers, namely
10 prostate, female breast, colorectal, and lung, but higher rates for
11 certain types, including liver, cervical, and stomach 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 84th Texas
2 Legislature hereby recognize April 2015 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.