

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1249

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature designated April as Minority
2 Cancer Awareness Month in a 2011 bill authored by Representative
3 Ruth Jones McClendon, herself a cancer survivor, and this annual
4 observance serves to raise awareness of the issue of cancer
5 inequality and the lifesaving power of prevention and early
6 detection; and

7 WHEREAS, Some minority groups face disproportionately high
8 incidence and death rates from cancer, and these disparities are
9 believed to be rooted in socioeconomic factors, including higher
10 levels of poverty; because poverty coincides with reduced access to
11 health insurance, members of minority groups may delay in seeking
12 diagnosis and treatment for health problems, resulting in cancer
13 being detected at more advanced stages with a far less optimistic
14 prognosis; and

15 WHEREAS, The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of
16 Texas prioritizes funding of cancer prevention and early detection
17 programs for underserved populations, with grantees providing over
18 3.3 million services to Texans across the state; and

19 WHEREAS, Further support comes from the UT Southwestern
20 Moncrief Cancer Institute, which operates the first-of-its-kind
21 Mobile Cancer Survivor Clinic; funded in part by a grant from CPRIT
22 and in part through the Texas Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program, the
23 mobile clinic enables the delivery of vital health services,
24 including colon and breast cancer screenings, financial and genetic

1 counseling, and nutritional planning, to areas where many cancer
2 survivors may not have convenient access to care; and

3 WHEREAS, The "80% by 2018" program is a special initiative
4 led by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable in which more than
5 1,000 organizations have committed to the goal of substantially
6 reducing colorectal cancer as a major public health problem for
7 those 50 years of age and older; as a result of their involvement,
8 the effort is expected to prevent more than 200,000 colorectal
9 cancer deaths by the year 2030; and

10 WHEREAS, Thanks to initiatives such as these, there is more
11 hope than ever before of increasing cancer survival rates among
12 minorities, and Minority Cancer Awareness Month provides a fitting
13 opportunity to commend these efforts and to acknowledge the vital
14 work that remains to be done; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize April 2017 as Minority Cancer
17 Awareness Month and encourage all Texans to learn more about
18 preventative measures and to seek medical attention at the first
19 warning signs of cancer.