86R20503 BK-D

By:  Rose H.R. No. 1391

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

WHEREAS, Although considerable progress has been made in the development of cancer treatment, detection, and prevention methods, more remains to be done to ensure that minority populations are equally served by these advances; strategies for closing the gap in cancer health outcomes include increasing access to care, providing greater support to patients in navigating the complexities of the health care system, recruiting more diverse participants in clinical trials, and devising community-level interventions that target the specific needs of minority populations; and

WHEREAS, Many of the prominent medical institutions and organizations in Texas have stepped forward to apply their expertise and resources to the issue of cancer disparity; the programs, studies, and innovative treatment methods pioneered by these groups are expected to yield important gains in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, Education and awareness remain crucial tools in addressing cancer inequality, and Minority Cancer Awareness Month is helping to focus attention on the goal of ensuring early detection and treatment for all Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 2019 as Minority Cancer Awareness Month and encourage the public to learn more about this vital topic.