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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer among American women, and each October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month helps to highlight the vital importance of educating the public about the disease; and

WHEREAS, One in eight American women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime; the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021, more than 281,000 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed, and over 43,000 women will lose their lives to the disease; it is the leading cause of death for Hispanic women and the second leading cause of death for African American, Asian Pacific, and American Indian women; in 2020, more than 18,000 Texans were diagnosed with breast cancer; breast cancer is the most common type of cancer globally, with more than two million people diagnosed in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985, the month of October has been recognized nationally as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as a result of this increased advocacy, billions of dollars have been spent on research and education, while many of the brightest scientific minds have been devoted to learning more about this disease; in addition, the annual event has helped raise awareness about the need for mammograms and other types of proactive screening; and

WHEREAS, These changes are especially significant because the issues around women's health have often been insufficiently examined by the medical community, resulting in women being underdiagnosed and, at times, not receiving lifesaving interventions; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of breast cancer is almost completely the same among White and Black women, yet Black women face a 41 percent higher mortality rate than White women; and

WHEREAS, Social inequities perpetuate a disparity in prevention, treatment, and survival of breast cancer; early detection saves lives, and all Texans deserve the best health care available, regardless of ability to pay or systemic barriers to health care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize October 2021 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and encourage Texans to seek out more information about breast cancer.