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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Minority Cancer Awareness Month is being observed in Texas in April to call attention to the disparities in cancer health among racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black, Native American, and Alaskan Native communities experience the highest cancer rates and worst outcomes for each of the most common types of cancer; in addition, Black communities are disproportionately impacted by other diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, and infections, making cancer treatment more difficult and more likely to cause severe side effects; and

WHEREAS, Cancer health disparities are worsened by some socioeconomic conditions; people experiencing poverty are less likely to enroll in clinical trials that offer improved cancer outcomes, and people with low income or insufficient health insurance may lack access to medical specialists or genetic testing required by clinical trials; according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Native American and Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic, and multiracial communities experienced the highest ratios of poverty compared to total population in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Many people in racial minority groups die from cancer due to a severe lack of matching stem cell or marrow donors in the worldwide registry; in the United States, 75 percent of Black patients, 75 percent of multiracial patients, 55 percent of Latino and Hispanic patients, and 60 percent of Asian American patients do not have a perfectly matched donor in the registry; and

WHEREAS, More work remains to be done to ensure that all cancer patients have access to life-saving treatments and quality health care, and the observance of Minority Cancer Awareness Month unites Texans in their commitment to improving cancer outcomes among racial and ethnic minority groups; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April as Minority Cancer Awareness Month in Texas and encourage all Texans to learn more about how minority groups are impacted by cancer health disparities.