

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 209

BY REPRESENTATIVE GARY CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To recognize September 2017 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, thousands of families across Louisiana are affected by metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, much of the discussion concerning breast cancer focuses on the importance of early detection and routine diagnosis, where tremendous progress has been made in the last thirty years; and

WHEREAS, the story for advanced stages of the disease is quite different, with many persons afflicted with advanced metastatic breast cancer struggling with the emotional and physical demands of continual treatment; and

WHEREAS, at present, no cure exists for metastatic breast cancer, and those with the disease will continue treatment indefinitely with the goal of extending their lives with the best quality of life possible; and

WHEREAS, more than one in eight women in the United States will be affected by invasive breast cancer in their lifetimes, many of whom live in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer can spread quickly and inexplicably, regardless of the treatment or preventative measures taken, and it is estimated that thirty percent of early stage breast cancer cases will become metastatic or recurrent advanced cases, which are cases where cancer spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the body, including the bones, lungs, liver, and brain; and

WHEREAS, although this devastating disease affects those of all races and socioeconomic classes, the mortality rate for African-American women is higher than for white women, and breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, while there have been treatment advances for metastatic breast cancer, many of those advances have benefitted a small subset of patients with specific types of metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer remains incurable, there is reason to be hopeful, as extensive research efforts are underway to address the need for a cure; and

WHEREAS, there is still more research to be done on this disease so that new and more effective treatments can be developed; and

WHEREAS, additional efforts are needed to highlight the personal and social burdens caused by metastatic breast cancer, the needs of patients afflicted by the disease, and the promotion of promising research efforts in the development of more effective treatments to combat the disease; and

WHEREAS, individuals diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer should speak to their physicians to learn more about the disease and find support groups and services in their community or online; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper to observe Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to shed light on the devastation metastatic breast cancer brings to communities throughout the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize September 2017 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Louisiana and does hereby encourage the citizens of Louisiana to raise awareness of metastatic breast cancer and to provide assistance to persons afflicted with this devastating disease.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES