

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To recognize April 13-19, 2014, as National Minority Cancer Awareness Week and to commend Mary Bird Perkins - Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center on holding "Fest for Life".

WHEREAS, the third week of April, namely April 13-19, 2014, is recognized as National Minority Cancer Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, the Mary Bird Perkins - Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center will hold "Fest for Life", a minority cancer awareness event, on April 12, 2014, in recognition of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, "Fest for Life" serves as a forum to increase awareness regarding the importance of early cancer detection among racial/ethnic minority groups and provides five types of free cancer screenings; and

WHEREAS, cancer is common in Americans of all racial and ethnic groups; however, the cancer rates vary considerably from group to group; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival rate of any racial and ethnic group in the United States of America for most cancers; and

WHEREAS, cancer is the second leading cause of death among Hispanic adults following heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans have the highest incidence and mortality rates from liver and stomach cancers of all racial and ethnic groups in both men and women; and

WHEREAS, these disparities are due largely to barriers to receiving timely and high quality medical care by minority populations resulting in later stage diagnosis when the disease is more difficult to treat; and

WHEREAS, Mary Bird Perkins - Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center, along with the many dedicated community partners, has screened more than 55,000 persons at more than 1,700 free cancer screening events in an eighteen parish service area since 2002; and

WHEREAS, in the six year history of this Minority Cancer Awareness Event, more than 3,000 persons have been screened for breast, colorectal, oral, prostate, and skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 minorities represented more than eighty percent of the persons screened for cancer at "Fest for Life".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 13-19, 2014, as National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mary Bird Perkins - Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center is hereby commended for holding "Fest for Life".

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE