

## Senate Resolution 165

By: Senators Schaefer of the 50th, Thomas of the 54th, Hill of the 32nd, Heath of the 31st, Hudgens of the 47th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in  
3 women worldwide; and
- 4 WHEREAS, according to federal governmental statistics, cervical cancer is the third most  
5 common gynecological cancer among American women, with approximately 12,200 new  
6 cases diagnosed annually, 4,100 of which result in fatalities; and
- 7 WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable;  
8 widespread screening programs have helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical  
9 cancer, but women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques and  
10 evaluative procedures; and
- 11 WHEREAS, cervical cancer cases in the United States are generally attributed to a lack of  
12 education, a reduction of access available to regular cervical cancer screening, and a lack of  
13 screening accuracy; and
- 14 WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer awareness among women,  
15 especially the underserved women within our state, significantly reduces the probability of  
16 mortality; and
- 17 WHEREAS, cervical cancer disproportionately affects minority women and women with  
18 lower incomes because they are less likely to have access to routine screening; and
- 19 WHEREAS, approximately half of all cervical cancer cases are in women who have never  
20 been screened, and 10 percent of cases are in women who have not been screened within the  
21 last five years; and

1 WHEREAS, the median age of cervical cancer patients at diagnosis is 47 years, the youngest  
2 median age for all female reproductive cancers; and

3 WHEREAS, new screening technologies, including FDA-approved testing for human  
4 papillomavirus, which is the cause of virtually all cervical cancers, offer new opportunities  
5 to finally eliminate this potentially deadly disease through early identification of women at  
6 increased risk; and

7 WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians  
8 and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the Association of Reproductive  
9 Health Professionals, have recently updated their screening guidelines to include  
10 FDA-approved testing for the human papillomavirus; and

11 WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information, so that they can be  
12 empowered to make informed health care decisions, and access to routine screening,  
13 including the most accurate methods available; and

14 WHEREAS, the members of this body recognize that through education and screening,  
15 women can lower their likelihood for developing cervical cancer, and that through early  
16 detection cervical cancer can be successfully treated after it develops.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 GEORGIA:

19 **SECTION 1.**

20 Effective July 1, 2005, the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force is established for the  
21 purpose of reviewing data regarding cervical cancer and human papillomavirus of women  
22 and recommending strategies and actions to reduce the costs and burden of cervical cancer  
23 in Georgia.

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 (a) The task force shall be composed of nine members to be appointed as follows:

26 (1) The Director of the Division of Public Health of the Department of Human Resources  
27 or another representative, appointed by the Governor;

28 (2) The Director of the Georgia Cancer Coalition or another representative, appointed by  
29 the Governor;

1 (3) A board-certified, practicing gynecologist representing the Georgia Obstetric and  
2 Gynecologic Society, appointed by the Governor;

3 (4) A board-certified oncologist, specializing in gynecological disorders, appointed by  
4 the Governor;

5 (5) A representative from Georgia State University's Georgia Health Policy Center,  
6 appointed by the Governor;

7 (6) Two members of the Georgia House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of  
8 the House of Representatives; and

9 (7) Two members of the Georgia Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
10 Senate.

11 (b) The Governor shall designate a member to serve as chairperson of the task force. The  
12 task force shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

13 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

### 14 SECTION 3.

15 The task force shall:

16 (1) Review statistical and qualitative data regarding cervical cancer and human  
17 papillomavirus of women and the prevalence and burden of cervical cancer;

18 (2) Receive and consider reports and testimony from individuals, county health  
19 departments, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations  
20 state wide to learn more about their contributions to cervical cancer diagnosis, prevention,  
21 and treatment, as well as their ideas for improving the care of cervical cancer patients in  
22 this state;

23 (3) Identify priority strategies and new technologies, including newly introduced vaccines,  
24 which are effective in preventing and controlling the risk of cervical cancer;

25 (4) Provide recommendations to the Division of Public Health of the Georgia Department  
26 of Human Resources on public awareness issues relating to cervical cancer, such as the  
27 causes, personal risk factors, value of prevention, methods of prevention and treatment,  
28 early detection options, treatment costs, new technology, and education for health care  
29 practitioners;

30 (5) Identify and examine existing programs, services, laws, and rules regarding the  
31 availability and coverage of treatment services for cervical cancer and current methods  
32 used to provide women with information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular  
33 screening, and options for increasing screening accuracy; and

34 (6) Develop a comprehensive Cervical Cancer Prevention Plan and present  
35 recommendations to the Governor, the Director of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, the  
36 Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the Commissioner of the

1 Georgia Department of Community Health, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and  
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3 **SECTION 4.**

4 The task force shall present an interim report to: the Governor, the Director of the Georgia  
5 Cancer Coalition, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, the  
6 Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health, the President Pro Tempore  
7 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1 , 2006, with a  
8 final report due on June 30, 2006. The task force shall stand abolished on June 30, 2006.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
10 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.