

House Resolution 612

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Randall of the 142nd, Clark of the 101st, Bennett of the 94th, Stephenson of the 90th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Fibroids Education and Awareness; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, uterine fibroids (UF) are tumors described as lumps of growths that develop
4 within the wall of the uterus. The location of the UF tumors can vary within the uterus.
5 They can occur inside the uterine wall (intramural), in the abdominal cavity (subserosal) or
6 in the uterine cavity (submucosal). They are reported to be one of the most common forms
7 of tumors for women in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, UF are the leading indication for hysterectomies among African American
9 women and Caucasian women in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, symptoms of UF often include: heavy bleeding; abdominal, lower back, and
11 pelvic pain and pain during intercourse; enlargement of the lower abdomen; frequent
12 urination; anemia; prolonged menstrual cycle; complications during pregnancy; infertility;
13 and miscarriage; and

14 WHEREAS, fibroids are most common in women aged 30-40 years but they can occur at any
15 age. Fibroids occur more often in African American women than in Caucasian women.
16 They also seem to occur at a younger age and more quickly in African American women; and

17 WHEREAS, information is less clear about the impact of UF on Georgia women, particularly
18 among minorities or those of lower socioeconomic status. Georgia residents suffering from
19 fibroids may be affected with pain, cramping, heavy menstrual bleeding, anemia, abnormal
20 hormone and estrogen levels, obesity or weight gain. Georgia residents may also suffer
21 reproductive complications from UF, including: infertility, miscarriage, preterm labor, and
22 sterility; and

23 WHEREAS, research has shown that there exist information gaps related to: 1) health
 24 disparities in UF and the comparative effectiveness of outcomes for different populations;
 25 2) the differences in fibroid disease and how these differences impact research; and 3) the
 26 impact of surgical and nonsurgical treatment options for UF on different ethnicities; and

27 WHEREAS, the treatment of fibroids may vary by provider, insurance status, and time of
 28 diagnosis. Because of this treatment variability and prevalence, it is in the public interest for
 29 this state to establish an entity to develop and implement a comprehensive program to
 30 improve education and awareness about fibroids for health care providers and the general
 31 public; and

32 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of this state to study contributing factors of fibroids as
 33 well as possible solutions for Georgia, including, specifically, the examination of fibroids
 34 information and literature, including information from the Centers for Disease Control and
 35 Prevention, the Georgia Department of Public Health and Department of Community Health;
 36 Georgia fibroids research and funding allocations; fibroids treatment options; and possible
 37 solutions for the services, community infrastructure, reproductive services geographic gaps
 38 and diversity, economic influences, provider development, provider accountability, and
 39 support services.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

41 (1) **Creation of House study committee.** There is created the House Study Committee
 42 on Fibroids Education and Awareness.

43 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of seven members of the
 44 House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 45 Representatives, and the Executive Director of The White Dress Project, for Fibroids
 46 Awareness. The Speaker shall designate one of his appointees as chairperson of the
 47 committee.

48 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
 49 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
 50 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.

51 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
 52 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
 53 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
 54 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

55 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
 56 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia

57 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
58 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
59 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
60 appropriated to the House of Representatives.

61 **(6) Report.**

62 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
63 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
64 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
65 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

66 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
67 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
68 of this paragraph.

69 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
70 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
71 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
72 the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

73 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Clerk of the
74 House of Representatives a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu
75 thereof.

76 **(7) Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2015.