

Senate Resolution 525

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March, 2017, as Endometriosis Awareness Month at the state capitol; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia seeks to foster the health and well-being of its citizens and  
4 engage in a conscientious commitment to advancing women's health; and

5 WHEREAS, endometriosis is a condition in which the type of tissue that forms the lining of  
6 the uterus (the endometrium) is found in areas outside of the uterus, including the Fallopian  
7 tubes, ovaries, bladder, or bowels; and

8 WHEREAS, the tissue may grow and bleed like the uterine lining does during the menstrual  
9 cycle, causing pain, infertility, and very heavy periods; and

10 WHEREAS, endometriosis occurs in approximately one in ten women of reproductive age,  
11 is most often diagnosed in women in their 30s and 40s, and may be treated with medication,  
12 surgery, or both; and

13 WHEREAS, about five million women in the United States suffer with endometriosis,  
14 costing the nation an estimated \$119 billion annually; and

15 WHEREAS, endometriosis can be found in up to 50 percent of infertile women in the United  
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, this painful disorder causes women to lose, on average, ten hours of work per  
18 week, with one estimate putting the economic impact at \$22 billion annually in the United  
19 States; and

20 WHEREAS, it can take more than nine years from the onset of symptoms and visits to  
21 multiple specialists for women to receive a diagnosis of endometriosis; and

22 WHEREAS, women with endometriosis are 1.35 times more likely to need surgery or  
23 stenting to open blocked arteries; 1.52 times more likely to have a heart attack; and 1.91  
24 times more likely to develop angina (chest pain) when compared to women of similar ages  
25 who do not have endometriosis; and

26 WHEREAS, more collaborative work with cardiologists, gynecologists, and primary care  
27 physicians is needed to prevent endometriosis related cardiovascular disease in this group of  
28 reproductive aged women; and

29 WHEREAS, the general lack of awareness about endometriosis contributes to the private  
30 suffering of patients and the rising public costs of this painful disorder; and

31 WHEREAS, the establishment of health seminars, funding opportunities, and medical  
32 information panels and programs would serve to inform all groups about this health crisis and  
33 lead to faster diagnosis, more research, better treatment options, and eventually a cure for  
34 endometriosis.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 recognize March, 2017, as Endometriosis Awareness Month at the state capitol to bring  
37 awareness of and state and national exposure to endometriosis.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
40 press.