

House Resolution 646

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Newton of the 123rd, Jackson of the 128th, and Tankersley of the 160th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Georgia Legislature to broaden eligibility and increase funding for the
2 Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, uninsured women aged 40 to 64 have the lowest rate of mammography use in
4 the past two years at only 31 percent compared to 68 percent for women with health
5 insurance; and

6 WHEREAS, the five-year survival for breast cancer is much higher when diagnosed at an
7 early stage and regular screening with mammography has resulted in 30 percent fewer breast
8 cancer deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, the costs of treating advanced stage breast cancer are significantly higher than
10 those for treating early stage disease, average costs allowed per patient in the two years
11 following a breast cancer diagnosis can reach up to \$182,655.00 for stage 4 breast cancer,
12 which is 2.5 times the cost of treating stage 0 breast cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society reports that breast cancer stage at diagnosis is
14 more advanced among racial and ethnic minority, lower income, and uninsured women, and
15 the mortality rate for African American women with breast cancer is higher than that of
16 white women; and

17 WHEREAS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program within the Department of
18 Public Health receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)
19 National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), a program that
20 provides low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women access to breast and cervical
21 cancer screening and early detection services along with patient navigation, case
22 management, and educational information; and

23 WHEREAS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program is meeting an unmet need
24 in providing recommended breast cancer screening services to low-income, uninsured, and
25 underinsured women who can be up to half as likely to have a mammogram in the last year
26 compared to the general population; and

27 WHEREAS, in the last five years, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program has
28 served 35,789 women; and

29 WHEREAS, from 2011 to 2016, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program
30 screened 34,989 women for breast cancer with mammography and diagnosed 517 breast
31 cancers; and

32 WHEREAS, despite its track record of success, the program remains woefully underfunded
33 as decreased investment at the federal and state levels has left low-income, uninsured, and
34 underinsured women without access to services, resulting in less than one in ten eligible
35 women currently receiving screenings through NBCCEDP; and

36 WHEREAS, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program raises awareness about the
37 importance of breast cancer screening and provides low-income, uninsured, and underinsured
38 women access to critical cancer control and prevention services that they may otherwise not
39 have; and

40 WHEREAS, access to these potentially lifesaving screening and early detection services
41 provided by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program should be available to all
42 eligible women, including those women under age 40, who are at high risk due to personal
43 or family history, genetic mutation, previous radiation therapy, or certain other medical
44 syndromes, consistent with American Cancer Society recommendations; and

45 WHEREAS, increased investment for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program
46 will help Georgia reduce breast cancer incidence and mortality, save costs through increasing
47 access to screening, diagnostic, and treatment services, and reduce expensive treatment for
48 late-stage diagnosis.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body encourage the Georgia Legislature to broaden eligibility and
51 increase funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program in an effort to

52 further reduce barriers to breast screening, early detection, and treatment for underserved
53 women so that health outcomes are improved.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
55 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
56 public and the press.