

Senate Resolution 704

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Harrell of the 40th, Anderson of the 43rd, Williams of the 39th, Parent of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing July as Uterine Fibroids Disease Awareness Month in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has an interest in protecting and promoting the
4 health and wellness of the state's citizens and recognizes the importance of shining a spotlight
5 on certain health issues that affect women in particular; and

6 WHEREAS, uterine fibroids are a disease of the female reproductive system; and

7 WHEREAS, uterine fibroids are non cancerous tumors that develop in the uterus which vary
8 in size and quantity and have no known cause; and

9 WHEREAS, uterine fibroids can cause heavy and prolonged menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain,
10 anemia, bowel and bladder dysfunction, infertility, miscarriage, and early onset of labor; and

11 WHEREAS, most women will develop uterine fibroids in their lifetime, with an estimated
12 80 percent of African American women and 70 percent of white women developing a uterine
13 fibroid by age 50; and

14 WHEREAS, uterine fibroids disproportionately affect African American women as they are
15 more likely to develop uterine fibroids and experience more severe symptoms than women
16 of other races; and

17 WHEREAS, many women receive delayed diagnosis and treatment for uterine fibroids
18 despite experiencing severe symptoms because they believe that what they are experiencing
19 is normal; and

20 WHEREAS, nearly half of women diagnosed with uterine fibroids report that they had no
21 previous knowledge of the disease; and

22 WHEREAS, hysterectomy, a major surgery to remove the uterus, is the most common
23 treatment, with over 200,000 women in the U.S. that undergo a hysterectomy to treat uterine
24 fibroids each year; and

25 WHEREAS, African American women are 2.4 times more likely to undergo a hysterectomy;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, the estimated societal burden of uterine fibroids in the United States is
28 estimated to be as much as \$34.4 billion annually, including up to \$9.4 billion in direct
29 medical costs, including physician visits, hospital admissions, and surgery, and up to \$17.2
30 billion from lost work due to absenteeism and short-term disability in women age 25 to 54;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, women with uterine fibroids now have additional treatment options and women
33 should have knowledge of and access to all treatment options to help address symptoms
34 related to fibroids.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize July as Uterine Fibroids Disease Awareness Month in Georgia and encourage the
37 state to observe the month with related awareness and education campaigns.

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.