

Senate Resolution 448

By: Senator Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium as part of the Georgia
2 Department of Public Health, HPV Cancer Free GA, Cancer Pathway, and The Susan Jolley
3 Awareness Program for their exceptional contributions to cervical cancer education and
4 awareness in Georgia; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, January is designated by the United States Congress as Cervical Cancer
6 Awareness Month; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, HPV Cancer Free GA, Cancer
8 Pathways, and The Susan Jolley Awareness Program are dedicated to HPV and cervical
9 cancer awareness efforts in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, in acknowledgment of their important work, Wellstar Kennestone Pediatric
11 Associates, Imagine Pediatrics, MedLink Gainesville, and Prestige Pediatrics are recognized
12 as The 2024 HPV Champions; and

13 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 4,000 deaths from this disease will occur in the United
14 States annually. Similar to the incidence rates, the death rate in the United States dropped by
15 around 50 percent since the mid-1970s, partly because the increase in screening resulted in

16 earlier detection of cervical cancer. However, the death rate is higher in Black women than
17 in White women, even though both groups self-report similar screening efforts. The death
18 rate has been declining each year since the early 2000s. In 2020, an estimated 341,831
19 women worldwide died from cervical cancer. Each year in the United States, nearly 11,000
20 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is most often diagnosed between the ages of 35 and 44. The
22 average age of diagnosis in the United States is 50. Over 20 percent of cervical cancers are
23 diagnosed after age 65. These cases usually occur in people who did not receive regular
24 cervical cancer screenings before age 65; and

25 WHEREAS, more than 4,000 women die from this disease annually, including over 100 in
26 Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, currently, 82 of Georgia's 159 counties do NOT have OB/GYNs, while another
28 15 only have one; and

29 WHEREAS, one in five Georgian women lack access to regular screenings that can identify
30 cervical cancer in its early stages, and fewer than one in four Georgia adolescents have
31 received the recommended doses of the HPV cancer prevention vaccine. Georgian
32 adolescents' initial dose of HPV vaccination is below national average, with Georgia at 71
33 percent compared to the national average of 76 percent; and

34 WHEREAS, more Black and Hispanic women get HPV-associated cervical cancer than
35 women of other races or ethnicities; and

36 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable cancers due to the
37 availability of screening tests and the HPV vaccine; 95 percent of all cervical cancers can be
38 prevented by the HPV vaccine; and

39 WHEREAS, the efforts of the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, HPV Cancer Free GA,
40 Cancer Pathways, and The Susan Jolley Awareness Program have helped increase public
41 awareness of cervical cancer and have also educated the public on HPV prevention and the
42 HPV vaccine.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 recognize and commend the 2024 HPV Champions as well as the Georgia Cancer Control
45 Consortium, HPV Cancer Free GA, Cancer Pathways, and The Susan Jolly Awareness
46 Program for their exceptional efforts and commitment to advancing cervical cancer
47 awareness and eliminating this disease.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to members of the
50 Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, HPV Cancer Free GA, Cancer Pathways, and The
51 Susan Jolley Awareness Program.