

Senate Resolution 689

By: Senator Rhett of the 33rd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending The Susan Jolley Foundation, the Georgia Cancer Control  
2 Consortium (a program of the Georgia Department of Public Health), and Cancer Pathways  
3 for their exemplary contributions to cervical cancer education and awareness in Georgia; and  
4 for other purposes.

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

7 WHEREAS, The Susan Jolley Foundation, the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, HPV  
8 Cancer Free GA, and Cancer Pathways are steadfastly committed to advancing HPV  
9 awareness and cervical cancer elimination, prevention, screening, and education throughout  
10 Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, in recognition of their impactful work, Sharon J Hill and Demetrius Geiger are  
12 hereby honored as the 2026 Georgia HPV Community Champions; and

13 WHEREAS, statewide, Georgia's cervical cancer screening (Pap test and/or HPV testing)  
14 rate is estimated around 76.5 percent, slightly below the national median of 77.7 percent,  
15 leaving approximately one in five women unscreened; and

16 WHEREAS, significant geographical disparities exist within Georgia, including Forsyth,  
17 McIntosh, Towns, and Franklin counties reporting cervical cancer screening rates lower than  
18 60 percent, underscoring inequities in access and outreach; and

19 WHEREAS, as of 2023, 63 percent of Georgia adolescents (ages 13-17) are "up to date" on  
20 the HPV vaccination series—below the Healthy People 2030 target of 80 percent and lagging  
21 behind the United States average of 77 percent for at least one dose; and

22 WHEREAS, in Georgia, an estimated 327 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed  
23 annually, with approximately 204 deaths due to the disease each year; and

24 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is most frequently diagnosed in the 35-44 age group—the  
25 average United States age at diagnosis is about 50, and nearly 20 percent of cases occur after  
26 age 65. While many guidelines permit cessation of screening after 65 in individuals with a  
27 long history of normal results, those lacking such history should continue appropriate  
28 surveillance; and

29 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is among the most preventable and treatable cancers due to the  
30 availability of effective screening and early detection; estimates suggest that up to 95 percent  
31 of cervical cancers could be avoided through widespread HPV vaccination, regular  
32 screening, and timely intervention; and

33 WHEREAS, the HPV-associated cancer rate was 13.7/100,000 persons for both males and  
34 females. This rate is significantly higher than the United States national average of 12.6 per  
35 100,000 persons. Men in Georgia (12.8) have a significantly higher rate of HPV-associated  
36 cancers than the United States average (11.4), and women (14.6) have a significantly higher  
37 rate of HPV-associated cancers than the United States average (13.9); and

38 WHEREAS, the efforts of The Susan Jolley Foundation, the Georgia Cancer Control  
39 Consortium, and Cancer Pathways have elevated public awareness, improved knowledge of  
40 HPV vaccination and screening, and mobilized community action across Georgia; and

41 WHEREAS, this year marks the 11th Anniversary of the advocacy efforts that began as The  
42 Susan Jolley Awareness Program and now continues as The Susan Jolley Foundation under  
43 the leadership of President Triana Arnold James.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 recognize and commend the 2026 Georgia HPV Community Champions for their outstanding  
46 leadership, dedication, and impact in promoting cervical cancer prevention and health equity  
47 in Georgia.

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 The Susan Jolley  
50 Foundation, the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, HPV Cancer Free GA, and Cancer  
51 Pathways.