

## House Resolution 820

By: Representatives Taylor of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 8 of each year as Black Women and Girls Awareness Day; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a mature, diverse, educated population of women and girls is necessary for  
4 Georgia to achieve a bright future. Since 1970, the population of women and girls in Georgia  
5 has more than doubled, reaching over 5.66 million; and women have taken on an increased  
6 role in the state's workforce, growing from 40 percent of the total workforce in 1970 to  
7 nearly 60 percent of the total workforce today. Black women and girls in Georgia are  
8 dedicated citizens who contribute to this state's vibrant culture, thriving economy, and  
9 neighborly communities; and

10 WHEREAS, despite immense progress in recent decades, many Black women and girls still  
11 face substantial hardships beyond those of other demographics, such as limited educational  
12 opportunities, economic hardships, and unique healthcare concerns. Despite such hardship,  
13 Black women and girls continue to demonstrate their commitment to the pursuit and  
14 successful acquisition of education. Today, approximately 96 percent of young Black  
15 women graduate high school and represent an increasing proportion of those enrolled in  
16 postsecondary education. Notably, Georgia is home to Spelman College, which is a college

17 for women that is ranked No. 1 among all historically Black colleges and universities in the  
18 nation by U.S. News and World Report; and

19 WHEREAS, through the course of their lifetimes, Black women and girls are at a greater risk  
20 of encountering health challenges including a wide variety of deadly, yet preventable,  
21 chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.  
22 Additionally, Black women and girls are more likely to be the victim of domestic violence  
23 and sexual assault, indicating that additional protections are necessary to reduce the incidents  
24 of Black women and girls being killed, made unsafe, or reported missing in our state; and

25 WHEREAS, although Black women comprise almost 8 percent of the general population,  
26 they are especially underrepresented among Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
27 Mathematics (STEM) degree-holders, making up of all degrees awarded only 4.2 percent of  
28 biological sciences, 2.8 percent of physical sciences, 2.6 percent of computer sciences, 2.3  
29 percent of mathematics and statistics, and 0.99 percent of engineering. It is especially  
30 important to target job creation, introduce high-tech skills training, and increase STEM  
31 opportunities for Black women in order to reduce long-term unemployment and  
32 underemployment; and

33 WHEREAS, Black women and girls play a vital role in maintaining Georgia's No. 2 ranking  
34 for growth of women-owned firms, as well as the state's status of having the fifth most firms  
35 owned by women. Approximately 39.1 percent of all Black-owned businesses across the  
36 United States are run by women which is significantly higher than the 22.3 percent of all  
37 businesses run by women in general across the United States. Additionally, Black women  
38 in Georgia have the highest labor force participation rates amongst all demographics; and

39 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the trials and successes of Black  
40 women and girls and the impact they make across our state every day and supports their  
41 continued success.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 the members of this body designate April 8 of each year as Black Women and Girls  
44 Awareness Day.

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