

House Resolution 1503

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94th, Cooper of the 45th, Roberts of the 52nd, Campbell of the 35th, Romman of the 97th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating February of each year as Cholesterol Screening Awareness Month in the State
2 of Georgia in order to raise awareness about the need for cholesterol screening; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, high cholesterol, also called hypercholesterolemia, is the chronic presence of
5 high levels of cholesterol in the blood that can lead to cardiovascular disease, and even
6 cardiovascular events like heart attacks or strokes; and

7 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that
8 cardiovascular disease is arguably the most underappreciated public health crisis of our time,
9 and someone in the United States has a heart attack every 40 seconds, yet about 80 percent
10 are preventable; and

11 WHEREAS, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), or "bad" cholesterol, is an easily
12 modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease, more than 80 million adults have high
13 LDL-C, and lower LDL-C is associated with a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke; and

14 WHEREAS, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States among racial and
15 ethnic minority populations; and

16 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease accounts for more than 22,000 deaths in Georgia a year,
17 which is one in three deaths overall; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2019, African Americans were 30 percent more likely to die from heart
19 disease than non-Hispanic whites, and although African American adults are 30 percent more
20 likely to have high blood pressure, they are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to have their
21 blood pressure under control; and

22 WHEREAS, African American women are nearly 50 percent more likely to have high blood
23 pressure, as compared to non-Hispanic white women; and

24 WHEREAS, the American Heart Association (AHA) has demonstrated that Hispanic
25 Americans are at exceptionally high risk for cardiovascular disease and coronary heart
26 disease, both of which can lead to a stroke or heart attack; and

27 WHEREAS, the AHA indicates that cardiovascular disease disproportionately affects
28 minority populations: 52.3 percent of Hispanic males and 42.7 percent of Hispanic females
29 over the age of 20 are affected by cardiovascular disease and 60.1 percent of Black males and
30 58.8 percent of Black females 20 years of age and older have cardiovascular disease; and

31 WHEREAS, the CDC found that one in three deaths in the United States is due to heart
32 disease and this results in more than \$216 billion in healthcare cost; and

33 WHEREAS, nearly 60 percent of middle-aged Hispanic adults have high cholesterol, yet
34 only half are aware of this, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American*
35 *Medical Association*; and

36 WHEREAS, a study published in the *American Journal of Preventative Cardiology* found
37 cholesterol testing, an important preventive measure for reducing the risk of cardiovascular
38 disease, declined during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

39 WHEREAS, the resources needed to bend the curve in cardiovascular disease exist, yet 71
40 percent of hypercholesterolemia patients at high risk of a cardiovascular event never achieve
41 recommended LDL-C treatment guideline thresholds; and

42 WHEREAS, the LDL-C Action Summit, a consortium of the nation's leading cardiovascular
43 stakeholder groups, seeks to cut cardiovascular events in half by 2030; and

44 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Million Hearts program seeks
45 to improve access and quality of care to reduce heart disease, stroke, and death; and

46 WHEREAS, all are encouraged to know their LDL-C level; and

47 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority
48 Health recognizes April as National Minority Health Month; and

49 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Health is urged to update the state's cardiovascular
50 plan to accelerate quality improvements and measures to achieve improved health outcomes
51 for cardiovascular disease patients and develop campaigns to increase cholesterol screening
52 during the month of April; and

53 WHEREAS, providers are urged to treat all cardiovascular disease patients in accordance
54 with American College of Cardiology treatment guidelines.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body designate February of each year as Cholesterol Screening
57 Awareness Month in order to raise awareness about the need for cholesterol screening.

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