

House Resolution 269

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45th, Schofield of the 63rd, Houston of the 170th, Au of the 50th, and Silcox of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 2023 as Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second
4 leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, approximately 297,790 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and over
6 43,000 will die with this malignancy in 2023; and

7 WHEREAS, triple negative breast cancer is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts
8 for about 15-20 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, more than 53,700 new breast cancer cases in 2019 in the United States were
11 triple negative breast cancer with higher prevalence among younger women, Black and
12 Hispanic women, women with type 2 diabetes or carrying excess weight in the abdomen
13 area, and those with BRCA1 mutations; and

14 WHEREAS, due to its aggressive behavior, triple negative breast cancer grows quickly, is
15 more likely to have spread at the time it is found, and is more likely to come back after
16 treatment than other types of breast cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, people diagnosed with metastatic triple negative breast cancer have a less than
18 30 percent chance of surviving past five years; and

19 WHEREAS, triple negative breast cancer cells do not contain and are considered negative
20 for the three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers;
21 therefore, there are limited treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer; and

22 WHEREAS, patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy,
23 radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available for specifically addressing
24 the management of triple negative breast cancer has made treating this disease a challenge
25 for clinicians; and

26 WHEREAS, recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against
27 triple negative breast cancer; and

28 WHEREAS, studies have shown that triple negative breast cancer disease-specific mortality
29 rates are often higher if patients have Medicaid or Medicare or are of lower socio-economic
30 status; compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are 48 percent less likely
31 to receive guideline adherent care and have an approximate two-fold higher mortality
32 incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from triple negative breast
33 cancer; and

34 WHEREAS, advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades
35 have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of triple
36 negative breast cancer on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations of the
37 underlying determinants driving the disparities; and

38 WHEREAS, it is necessary to promote triple negative breast cancer education, to raise
39 awareness about the disease-related disparities, and to tackle inequities within the health care
40 delivery, such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve
41 early detection and survival.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize March 2023 as Triple Negative Breast Cancer
44 Awareness Month.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support legislation to reduce
46 triple negative breast cancer disparities in early detection and survival by improving
47 education and awareness through health promotion initiatives targeting undeserved
48 communities disproportionately impacted; ensuring equitable access to and the affordability
49 of breast cancer screening, genetic counseling, and diagnostic testing; promoting cultural
50 sensitivity and workforce diversity policies in health care provider training; and guaranteeing
51 timely patient access to clinically appropriate treatment options identified in the National
52 Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines.

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