

House Resolution 511

By: Representatives McClain of the 109th, Au of the 50th, Newton of the 127th, Mitchell of the 88th, Schofield of the 63rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 2023 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in Georgia in order
2 to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care for
3 individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, March is recognized as National Kidney Month, which makes this month an
5 important time for raising public awareness and understanding about chronic kidney and rare
6 kidney diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, more than one in seven individuals (15 percent of adults in the United States
8 or 37 million people) are estimated to have chronic kidney disease (CKD), and as many as
9 nine in ten adults with CKD do not know they have CKD; and

10 WHEREAS, kidney disease disproportionately affects communities of color. African
11 Americans are almost four times more likely and Hispanics are 1.3 times more likely to have
12 kidney failure compared to White Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, ninety percent of patients with CKD stages 1-3 are undiagnosed, and less than
14 3 percent of Black patients believe that they are at high risk for CKD; and

15 WHEREAS, CKD, when diagnosed, is often diagnosed in late stages of the disease when
16 irreversible damage to the kidneys has already occurred; and

17 WHEREAS, fifteen percent of people diagnosed with CKD are unaware of the cause of their
18 disease; and

19 WHEREAS, recent scientific advancements have shown that some of the health disparities
20 in CKD have a genetic basis; and

21 WHEREAS, this genetic risk factor for CKD was discovered in 2010 when scientists learned
22 that people who inherit two variants of the Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) gene are at
23 significantly increased risk of developing kidney disease; and

24 WHEREAS, while everyone has the APOL1 gene, only people with African ancestry inherit
25 certain genetic variants; and

26 WHEREAS, thirteen percent of African Americans carry two APOL1 risk variants, and
27 estimates suggest that up to one in five people with two APOL1 risk variants will develop
28 kidney disease; and

29 WHEREAS, APOL1-mediated kidney disease causes high levels of protein in the urine, or
30 proteinuria, and can lead to various symptoms including swelling in the legs and/or feet,
31 fatigue, and weight gain; and

32 WHEREAS, research has also shown that the course of kidney disease is more rapidly
33 progressive in individuals with two APOL1 risk variants than in patients without them; and

34 WHEREAS, the disease may eventually lead to kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney
35 transplant; and

36 WHEREAS, there are simple tests to diagnose chronic kidney disease, including blood and
37 urine tests, and a genetic test exists to identify the presence of APOL1 risk variants; and

38 WHEREAS, it is imperative to improve diagnosis and treatment of CKD through
39 community-based programs that address racial disparities in the awareness, diagnosis, and
40 treatment of chronic kidney disease.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body recognize March 2023 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness
43 Month in Georgia in order to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs,
44 and access to care for individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

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 to the public and the
47 press.