

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR70788-LM-216 (05/24)

Sponsors: Representatives Womble, Parmon, Brown, McGee (Primary Sponsors);
and Folwell.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SISTER, SPEAK, A
2 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA,
3 IN ITS QUEST TO EDUCATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ABOUT
4 BREAST HEALTH AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS, TO ENCOURAGE
5 OTHERS ACROSS THE STATE TO FORM SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS TO
6 HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN THIS STATE, AND TO HONOR THE
7 LIVES OF REVEREND CONITA ARCHIE-HUNT, BENITA SIMS, AND
8 GRETCHEN HOLLAND, WHO WERE ADVOCATES FOR EARLY BREAST
9 CANCER DETECTION AND QUALITY TREATMENT FOR
10 AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN.

11 Whereas, approximately 20,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed
12 among African-American women in the United States each year, making breast cancer
13 the most common cancer among African-American women in this country; and

14 Whereas, although African-American women over the age of 40 have a lower
15 incidence of breast cancer than Caucasian women, they are more likely to die from the
16 disease because they are often less able to afford adequate and quality medical care; and

17 Whereas, because of the lack of medical care, many African-American
18 women do not receive regular screening mammograms prior to a breast cancer diagnosis
19 and they do not receive the full range of treatment options after a diagnosis that might
20 prolong or save their lives; and

21 Whereas, some studies have raised the possibility that African-American
22 women may be more susceptible to aggressive breast cancers that are difficult to treat;
23 and

24 Whereas, the five-year survival rate for African-American women is
25 significantly less than that for Caucasian women, and approximately 5,700
26 African-American women die of breast cancer each year; and

1 Whereas, in an effort to make African-American women more knowledgeable
2 about breast health and awareness, Sister, Speak, a YWCA Breast Health Education
3 Program, was started in the City of Winston-Salem in January, 2001, with a grant from
4 the North Carolina Triad Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and

5 Whereas, Sister, Speak delivers the message of breast health and awareness to
6 African-American women through church meetings, casual gatherings, hair salons,
7 health fairs, individual chats, sororities, pot luck dinners, and special events; and

8 Whereas, in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, Sister, Speak provided 85
9 mammograms to uninsured or underinsured African-American women; and

10 Whereas, since it was founded, Sister, Speak has reached at least 5,400
11 African-American women with its message of breast health and awareness; and

12 Whereas, in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, Sister, Speak was recognized for
13 organizing the largest community and largest nonprofit team to participate in the North
14 Carolina Triad Race for the Cure; and

15 Whereas, in 2005, three dedicated members of Sister, Speak died from breast
16 cancer: Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt on May 24, 2005, Benita Sims on July 1, 2005,
17 and Gretchen Holland on August 26, 2005; and

18 Whereas, it is fitting to recognize the work of organizations like Sister, Speak
19 and to honor women of all races who have died from breast cancer; Now, therefore,
20 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

21 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes Sister, Speak, a nonprofit
22 organization in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for its dedication and persistence in
23 reaching out to African-American women in the Triad region of the State to provide
24 them with valuable information about breast health and awareness and free
25 mammograms that may save lives.

26 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the lives of Sister, Speak
27 members Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt, Benita Sims, and Gretchen Holland for their
28 effort to educate African-American women about breast health and awareness and
29 acknowledges the many other women in this State who have lost their battle with breast
30 cancer.

31 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly encourages individuals and
32 organizations in the State to follow Sister, Speak's example and reach out to women of
33 all races to inform them about the risks of breast cancer and the ways to prevent this
34 deadly disease.

35 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution
36 to Sister, Speak and to the families of Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt, Benita Sims, and
37 Gretchen Holland.

38 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.