

1 SJR51
2 139040-1
3 By Senators Keahey, Allen, Beasley, Beason, Bedford,
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Brooks, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn,
5 Fielding, Figures, Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Irons, Marsh,
6 McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed, Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield,
7 Singleton, Smith, Smitherman, Taylor, Waggoner, Ward, Whatley,
8 and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 20-MAR-12

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8 DECLARING NOVEMBER AS ALABAMA PANCREATIC CANCER
9 AWARENESS MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, in 2012, an estimated 43,920 people will be
12 diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer in the United States and
13 37,390 will die from the disease; and

14 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest
15 cancers and is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the
16 United States; and

17 WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present
18 themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic
19 prognosis; 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within
20 the first year of their diagnosis while 94 percent of
21 pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, of all the racial/ethnic groups in the
24 United States, African Americans have the highest incidence
25 rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 and 70 percent higher
26 than other groups; and

1 WHEREAS, approximately 600 pancreatic cancer-related
2 deaths will occur in Alabama in 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and
4 there have been no significant improvements in survival rates
5 in the last 40 years; and

6 WHEREAS, the Federal Government invests
7 significantly less money in pancreatic cancer research than it
8 does in any of the other leading cancer killers; pancreatic
9 cancer research constitutes only approximately two percent of
10 the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a
11 figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its
12 mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest
13 it; and

14 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the
15 first and only national patient advocacy organization that
16 serves the pancreatic cancer community in Alabama and
17 nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research
18 funding, patient services, and public awareness and education
19 related to developing effective treatments and a cure for
20 pancreatic cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and
22 its affiliates in Alabama support those patients currently
23 battling pancreatic cancer, as well as to those who have lost
24 their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less
25 than a cure; and

26 WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the
27 residents of Alabama are enhanced as a direct result of

1 increased awareness about pancreatic cancer and research into
2 early detection, causes, and effective treatments; now
3 therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA BOTH
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and
6 declare the month of November 2012 as "Pancreatic Cancer
7 Awareness Month."