

House Resolution 1019

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Cannon of the 58th, Bennett of the 94th, Robichaux of the 48th, Mitchell of the 106th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 24, 2022, as HPV Cancer Awareness Day in Georgia and to call
2 attention to the connection between the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer; to spread
3 awareness of the protection offered to prevent most HPV-related cancers; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, human papillomavirus (HPV) infections are so common that nearly all men and
6 women will get HPV at some point in their lives; approximately 80 million Americans are
7 currently infected with HPV, and about 14 million Americans, including teens, become
8 infected each year; and

9 WHEREAS, HPV is a recognized cause of cancer; and although most HPV infections are
10 asymptomatic and clear spontaneously, persistent infections can progress to precancer or
11 cancer; and

12 WHEREAS, HPV can cause six types of cancer, but only cervical cancer can be detected
13 early; the other five cancers caused by HPV may not be detected until they cause health
14 problems; and

15 WHEREAS, about 46,143 new cases of HPV-associated cancers occur in the United States
16 each year, including about 25,719 among women and about 20,424 among men; and

17 WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the most common HPV-associated cancer among women;
18 oropharyngeal cancers, cancers of the back of the throat including the base of the tongue and
19 tonsils, are the most common among men; and

20 WHEREAS, according to U.S. cancer statistics, 1,557 HPV-associated cancers occurred in
21 Georgia in 2018; however, HPV infections and cervical precancers, abnormal cells on the
22 cervix that can lead to cancer, have dropped since 2006, when HPV vaccines were first used
23 in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, preventing cancer is better than treating it: most HPV-related cancers can be
25 prevented by timely HPV vaccination, according to guidelines from the Centers for Disease
26 Control and Prevention; the most recent data from 2020 shows Georgia is ranked 30th in the
27 United States for percentage of adolescents ages 13-17 who received all recommended doses
28 of the HPV vaccine; and

29 WHEREAS, HPV vaccination is cancer prevention; and increasing awareness among
30 patients and parents and educating healthcare providers regarding the best use of the
31 preventative tools is a key component in safeguarding health; and

32 WHEREAS, state-wide organizations, including the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium and
33 HPV Cancer Free GA, have recognized healthcare providers and cancer prevention advocates
34 for their HPV cancer prevention efforts.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body recognize March 24, 2022, as HPV Cancer Awareness Day in
37 Georgia; support all Georgia citizens in taking advantage of the tests, screenings, and
38 vaccines that have proven effective in preventing most HPV-related cancers; and encourage
39 all parents to consider vaccinating their children to help protect future generations from
40 HPV-related cancers.

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