

House Resolution 1165

By: Representatives Drenner of the 85th, Thomas of the 56th, and Henson of the 86th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support for those affected by polycystic ovary syndrome and recognizing
2 September, 2018, as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month at the state capitol; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common health problem among women
5 and girls that involves a hormonal imbalance; and

6 WHEREAS, there is no universal definition of PCOS, but researchers estimate that between
7 five and ten million women in the United States are affected by the condition; and

8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are more than 200,000 women with PCOS in Georgia;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, PCOS can affect girls from the onset of puberty and throughout the remainder
11 of their lives; and

12 WHEREAS, the symptoms of PCOS include infertility, irregular or absent menstrual periods,
13 acne, weight gain, thinning of scalp hair, excessive facial and body hair growth, numerous
14 small ovarian cysts, pelvic pain, and mental health problems; and

15 WHEREAS, women with PCOS have higher rates of psychosocial disorders, including
16 depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and eating disorders, and are at greater risk for suicide;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, adolescents with PCOS, many of whom have metabolic dysfunction and insulin
19 resistance, often are not diagnosed, which can lead to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease,
20 obstructive sleep apnea, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, and endometrial cancer at a young
21 adult age; and

22 WHEREAS, PCOS is the most common cause of female infertility; and

23 WHEREAS, PCOS in pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of gestational diabetes,
24 preeclampsia, pregnancy-induced hypertension, preterm delivery, cesarean delivery,
25 miscarriage, and fetal and infant death; and

26 WHEREAS, women with PCOS are at an increased risk of developing high blood pressure,
27 high cholesterol, stroke, and heart disease and have a four to seven times higher risk of
28 having a heart attack compared to women the same age who do not have PCOS; and

29 WHEREAS, women with PCOS have a more than 50 percent chance of developing type 2
30 diabetes or prediabetes before the age of 40; and

31 WHEREAS, women with PCOS may be at a higher risk for breast cancer and ovarian cancer
32 and have a three times higher risk for developing endometrial cancer compared to women
33 who do not have PCOS; and

34 WHEREAS, up to 80 percent of women with PCOS are overweight or obese; and

35 WHEREAS, an estimated 50 percent of women with PCOS are undiagnosed, and many
36 remain undiagnosed until they experience fertility difficulties or develop type 2 diabetes or
37 other cardiometabolic disorders; and

38 WHEREAS, the costs involved with the diagnosis and management of PCOS to the United
39 States health care system is more than \$4.3 billion a year during patients' reproductive years,
40 not including the costs associated with the treatment of any comorbidities, including diabetes,
41 high blood pressure, sleep apnea, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, cardiovascular disease,
42 obesity, and cancer; and

43 WHEREAS, the cause of PCOS is unknown, but researchers have found strong links to a
44 genetic predisposition, and significant insulin resistance, which affects up to 70 percent of
45 women with PCOS; and

46 WHEREAS, there is no known cure for PCOS; and

47 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly supports the goals and ideals of PCOS
48 Awareness Month, which are to increase awareness of and education about the disorder

49 among the general public, women, girls, and health care professionals; improve diagnosis
50 and treatment of the disorder; disseminate information on diagnosis and treatment options;
51 and recognize the need for further research, improved treatment and care options, and a cure
52 for PCOS; and

53 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the seriousness of polycystic ovary
54 syndrome be appropriately acknowledged.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
56 the members of this body express support for those affected by polycystic ovary syndrome;
57 encourage researchers and health care professionals in Georgia to advance their
58 understanding of polycystic ovary syndrome in order to research, diagnose, and provide
59 assistance to women and girls with polycystic ovary syndrome; and recognize September,
60 2018, as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Awareness Month at the state capitol.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
62 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
63 Department of Public Health, the public, and the press.