

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Karen Eubanks Jackson, Founder & CEO of Sisters Network, Inc., for her efforts in education and support of African American women diagnosed with breast cancer.

WHEREAS, Sisters Network, Inc., (SNI) is hosting the 12th National African American Breast Cancer Conference, May 13-15 in Baton Rouge which will host focus group sessions and workshops specifically for young survivors; and

WHEREAS, younger African American women are being diagnosed with breast cancer and in an effort to address the needs of these women, SNI is launching Young Sisters Initiative, a program designed to reach women diagnosed with breast cancer at age forty-five and under; and

WHEREAS, Karen Eubanks Jackson is Founder & CEO of SNI, the nation's only African American breast cancer survivorship organization that addresses the needs particular to African American women; and

WHEREAS, she is a sixteen year breast cancer survivor who turned a personal challenge into an organization that provides standardized educational programs, support, empowerment, hope, and financial assistance to African American women diagnosed with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, during her personal fight to survive breast cancer, she recognized a lack of "sisterhood" in traditional organizations, a staggering breast cancer mortality rate for African Americans, and limited culturally sensitive material; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Karen Eubanks Jackson founded SNI in order to ensure that African American women diagnosed with breast cancer receive comprehensive medical care and social support; and

WHEREAS, her primary motivation was to break through the silence and shame of breast cancer that immobilizes African American women, restricts their ability to receive support services, interferes with early detection, and ultimately affects their survival rates; and

WHEREAS, under Karen Eubanks Jackson's leadership, SNI has experienced phenomenal growth resulting in over 43 survivor-run affiliate chapters, serving more than 3000 members and associate members nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in addition, she has developed several national outreach initiatives, including The Gift for Life Block Walk, the Pink Ribbon Awareness Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Karen Eubanks Jackson recognized the African American community's historical difficulty discussing cancer and other health concerns and created a national branding campaign: STOP THE SILENCE which was used on billboards and bumper stickers consisting of the slogan "STOP THE SILENCE- Changing the Face of Early Breast Health Intervention" and also provided educational outreach and awareness to African American women between the ages of 25 and 45, with the program being funded by the Department of Health & Human Services, office of minority health; and

WHEREAS, she is a widely recognized minority breast health advocate, a highly sought-after speaker and expert on the African American women's breast cancer experience, who has traveled nationally and internationally, bringing her message to the United States Army's Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center in Germany, the National Congressional Black Caucus and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Karen Eubanks Jackson has been featured in numerous national newspapers, magazines, television, radio programs, and Internet media outlets; and

WHEREAS, she is a published co-author of several works; and

WHEREAS, Karen Eubanks Jackson's achievements have been recognized as she has been the recipient of the TNT Dramatic Difference Award; Breast Cancer Hero by Lifetime TV, JC Penney "Champion of Change", The Jefferson Award-ABC and the Lance Armstrong "Voice of Survivorship" Award; and

WHEREAS, she serves on numerous local and national committees, including the Center for Research on Minority Health, Cancer Support Community, Cancer Alliance of

Texas; is a member of the American Society of Breast Disease; and formerly served on committees such as the National Breast Cancer Coalition Board of Directors, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's African American National Advisory Committee and the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, she attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and earned certifications in the area of Breast Health Education from several organizations; and

WHEREAS, Karen Eubanks Jackson continues to make a difference and lives by the Sisters Network, Inc., national creed - "In Unity there is Strength, In Strength there is Power, In Power there is Change."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Karen Eubanks Jackson, Founder & CEO of Sister Network, Inc., for her efforts in education and support for African American women diagnosed with breast cancer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Karen Eubanks Jackson.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE