

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 469

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to commemorate October 13, 2019, as
"Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day" in
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, thousands of families across Tennessee are affected by metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer patients continue to face many unique challenges, including the emotional and physical demands of continual treatment; and

WHEREAS, no cure currently exists for metastatic breast cancer, and many of those with metastatic breast cancer will continue treatment with the goal of extending the best quality of life possible; and

WHEREAS, one in eight women in the United States could be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes; in Tennessee, it is expected that 5,580 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, it is estimated that over 154,000 women have metastatic breast cancer; this devastating stage of breast cancer occurs when cancer spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the body, including the bones, lungs, liver, and brain; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, it is estimated that more than 950 women in Tennessee will die of breast cancer, nearly all due to metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer affects all races and socioeconomic classes; while non-Hispanic white women see slightly higher incidence rates of breast cancer, the mortality rate for non-Hispanic black women with breast cancer is forty percent higher than that of non-Hispanic white women. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines health equity as when every person has the opportunity to "attain his or her full health potential"; and

WHEREAS, any discussions of breast cancer should include the spectrum from prevention through the treatment and support of those with metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer cuts short the lives of too many people in Tennessee, leaving a lasting effect on their families; and

WHEREAS, while there have been advances in treatment of metastatic breast cancer, many of those advances have been limited to patients with specific types of metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer remains incurable, there is reason to be hopeful; extensive research efforts are underway to address this high, unmet need; and

WHEREAS, ClinicalTrials.gov is a searchable database that provides patients, family members, and the public with information about current ongoing clinical research studies; and

WHEREAS, additional focus is needed on the personal and social burdens of metastatic breast cancer for all women, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, there is still more research to be done for metastatic breast cancer so that new and more effective treatments can be developed; and

WHEREAS, "Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day" serves to shed light on the devastation metastatic breast cancer brings to communities throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, on this day, the citizens of Tennessee are encouraged to become informed and aware of metastatic breast cancer and to support funding for programs that reduce barriers to breast cancer screening, detection, and treatment for underserved women; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commemorate October 13, 2019, as "Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.