

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2893
Committee Substitute Favorable 7/6/06

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 29, 2006

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SISTER, SPEAK, A
2 PROGRAM OF THE YWCA IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, IN
3 ITS QUEST TO EDUCATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ABOUT BREAST
4 HEALTH AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS, TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS
5 ACROSS THE STATE TO FORM SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP
6 SAVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN THIS STATE, AND TO HONOR THE LIVES
7 OF REVEREND CONITA ARCHIE-HUNT, BENITA SIMS, AND GRETCHEN
8 HOLLAND, WHO WERE ADVOCATES FOR EARLY BREAST CANCER
9 DETECTION AND QUALITY TREATMENT FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN
10 WOMEN.

11 Whereas, approximately 20,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed
12 among African-American women in the United States each year, making breast cancer
13 the most common cancer among African-American women in this country; and

14 Whereas, although African-American women over the age of 40 have a lower
15 incidence of breast cancer than Caucasian women, they are more likely to die from the
16 disease because they are often less able to afford adequate and quality medical care; and

17 Whereas, because of the lack of medical care, many African-American
18 women do not receive regular screening mammograms prior to a breast cancer
19 diagnosis, and they do not receive the full range of treatment options after a diagnosis
20 that might prolong or save their lives; and

21 Whereas, some studies have raised the possibility that African-American
22 women may be more susceptible to aggressive breast cancers that are difficult to treat;
23 and

24 Whereas, the five-year survival rate for African-American women is
25 significantly less than that for Caucasian women, and approximately 5,700
26 African-American women die of breast cancer each year; and

27 Whereas, in an effort to make African-American women more knowledgeable
28 about breast health and awareness, Sister, Speak, a YWCA Breast Health Education
29 Program, was started in the City of Winston-Salem in January 2001, with a grant from
30 the North Carolina Triad Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and

1 Whereas, Sister, Speak delivers the message of breast health and awareness to
2 African-American women through church meetings, casual gatherings, hair salons,
3 health fairs, individual chats, sororities, pot luck dinners, and special events; and

4 Whereas, in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, Sister, Speak provided 85
5 mammograms to uninsured or underinsured African-American women; and

6 Whereas, since it was founded, Sister, Speak has reached at least 5,400
7 African-American women with its message of breast health and awareness; and

8 Whereas, in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, Sister, Speak was recognized for
9 organizing the largest community and largest nonprofit team to participate in the North
10 Carolina Triad Race for the Cure; and

11 Whereas, in 2005, three dedicated members of Sister, Speak died from breast
12 cancer: Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt on March 26, 2005, Benita Sims on July 1, 2005,
13 and Gretchen Holland on August 3, 2005; and

14 Whereas, it is fitting to recognize the work of organizations like Sister, Speak
15 and to honor women of all races who have died from breast cancer; Now, therefore,
16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

17 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes Sister, Speak, a nonprofit
18 organization in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for its dedication and persistence in
19 reaching out to African-American women in the Triad region of the State to provide
20 them with valuable information about breast health and awareness and free
21 mammograms that may save lives.

22 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly honors the lives of Sister, Speak
23 members Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt, Benita Sims, and Gretchen Holland for their
24 effort to educate African-American women about breast health and awareness and
25 acknowledges the many other women in this State who have lost their battle with breast
26 cancer.

27 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly encourages individuals and
28 organizations in the State to follow Sister, Speak's example and reach out to women of
29 all races to inform them about the risks of breast cancer and the ways to prevent this
30 deadly disease.

31 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution
32 to Sister, Speak and to the families of Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt, Benita Sims, and
33 Gretchen Holland.

34 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.