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 attention to the connection between the human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer; to spread awareness of the protection offered to prevent most HPV-related cancers; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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