

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.143

Senators Anthony, Geiss, Moss and Santana offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize October 2024 as Uterine Fibroids  
2 Awareness Month.

3           Whereas, Uterine fibroids, also known as leiomyomas or myomas,  
4 are non-cancerous growths that form in or around the uterus or  
5 pelvic cavity that can lead to significant pelvic pain,  
6 reproductive dysfunction, abnormal uterine bleeding, miscarriages,  
7 and infertility; and

8           Whereas, Uterine fibroids can vary in number, size, and  
9 severity depending on the location and will sometimes lead to the  
10 distortion of the inside and outside of the uterus, or in some  
11 cases, can cause extreme pain when a fibroid outgrows its blood

1 supply and starts to die, ultimately leading to more serious health  
2 complications; and

3       Whereas, The pain, discomfort, stress, and other physical and  
4 emotional symptoms of living with fibroids may interfere with a  
5 woman's quality of life, affecting their personal and professional  
6 life, as well as their overall health and well-being; and

7       Whereas, Uterine fibroids are one of the most common medical  
8 conditions among women, affecting an estimated 26 million women in  
9 the United States during their reproductive years, with the  
10 likelihood of developing the condition increasing with age; and

11       Whereas, Despite the prevalence of uterine fibroids,  
12 statistics on this condition are often underestimated, as many  
13 women remain undiagnosed or do not seek medical care for their  
14 symptoms. This is due to limited knowledge regarding fibroids and  
15 normal menstruation that may lead to a distorted view of what is  
16 normal with regard to uterine bleeding; and

17       Whereas, Uterine fibroids disproportionately impact women of  
18 color, as Black women are diagnosed with fibroids roughly three  
19 times as frequently as Caucasian women, with women of color being  
20 more prone to develop the condition earlier in life and also tend  
21 to experience larger and more numerous fibroids that cause more  
22 severe symptoms; and

23       Whereas, The diagnosis of fibroids starts with detection  
24 during a routine pelvic exam, but can lead to more complex testing,  
25 including a pelvic ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI),  
26 hysterosalpingography, or a hysteroscopy; and

27       Whereas, A woman's fertility can be affected by uterine  
28 fibroids in a variety of ways, including the possibility of the  
29 fibroids growing and blocking the uterus or fallopian tubes, making

1 it harder to become pregnant. Other negative impacts include  
2 miscarriage, abnormal attachment of the placenta, increased  
3 likelihood of delivery by cesarean section, and postpartum  
4 hemorrhage; and

5       Whereas, Treatments for uterine fibroids range from medicinal  
6 to surgical approaches, depending on the severity of the case,  
7 symptoms, location and size of the fibroids, age, medical history,  
8 and a woman's health goals. Medicinal approaches include anti-  
9 inflammatory painkillers and hormonal treatments like oral  
10 contraceptive pills or progesterone-containing agents. Surgical  
11 approaches include a myomectomy, a procedure during which the  
12 fibroids are removed but the uterus stays intact to preserve a  
13 women's fertility; and

14       Whereas, A hysterectomy, or removal of the entire uterus, is  
15 among the most common surgical treatments for uterine fibroids.  
16 Fibroids are the number one reason for hysterectomies in the United  
17 States, which are major surgeries that can be more extensive  
18 depending on the size of the uterine fibroids; and

19       Whereas, Uterine fibroids were estimated to cost the United  
20 States \$5.9 to \$34.4 billion annually with an estimated annual lost  
21 work cost of \$1.55 to \$17.2 billion annually, due to the  
22 absenteeism and short-term disability among women ages 25-54; and

23       Whereas, Public awareness and education about uterine fibroids  
24 is critical to increase knowledge about this condition and improve  
25 prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment methods; now,  
26 therefore, be it

27       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
28 body recognize October 2024 as Uterine Fibroids Awareness Month. We  
29 recognize the disparities in incidence rates for Black and Hispanic

- 1 uterine fibroid patients and urge greater research, data
- 2 collection, treatment, and care options for uterine fibroids.