

## House Resolution 105 - Introduced

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY GAINES and THEDE

1 A Resolution designating October 13, annually, as  
2 Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

3 WHEREAS, based upon the most recent data, in 2020  
4 it was estimated that over 168,000 women in the United  
5 States were living with metastatic breast cancer, also  
6 known as advanced breast cancer or Stage IV breast  
7 cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer arises months or  
9 even years after a person has completed treatment for  
10 locally advanced breast cancer with only approximately  
11 6 percent of women having metastases when they are  
12 first diagnosed with breast cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, this devastating stage of breast cancer  
14 occurs when cancer spreads beyond the breast and nearby  
15 lymph nodes to other parts of the body, most often the  
16 bones, lungs, liver, or brain; and

17 WHEREAS, while metastatic breast cancer has spread  
18 to another part of the body, it is still considered  
19 breast cancer and treated as breast cancer; and

20 WHEREAS, approximately 30 percent of breast cancer  
21 survivors eventually experience metastatic breast  
22 cancer; and

23 WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer affects all races  
24 and socioeconomic classes; and

25 WHEREAS, while the greatest incidence of breast  
26 cancer occurs in white women, breast cancer is the most  
27 common cancer among African American women and the  
28 mortality rate related to the disease is higher for

1 African American women; and

2 WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common cancer  
3 diagnosed in Hispanic/Latina women, Hispanic/Latina  
4 women tend to be diagnosed with later stage breast  
5 cancers than non-Hispanic white women, and breast  
6 cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for  
7 Hispanic/Latina women; and

8 WHEREAS, while no cure exists for metastatic breast  
9 cancer, metastatic breast cancer is treatable, with  
10 treatment focusing on extending life and maintaining  
11 quality of life; and

12 WHEREAS, approximately one-third of women diagnosed  
13 with metastatic breast cancer in the United States live  
14 at least five years after diagnosis with some living 10  
15 or more years beyond diagnosis; and

16 WHEREAS, even though there has been tremendous  
17 progress in the last 30 years related to early  
18 detection and routine diagnosis of breast cancer, there  
19 has not been as much progress related to the treatment  
20 of metastatic breast cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, while statistics are collected for initial  
22 diagnoses of metastatic breast cancer, statistics  
23 on metastatic recurrences which comprise the larger  
24 portion of metastatic breast cancer cases is not  
25 routinely collected or reported in the United States,  
26 thereby limiting health care planning and the capacity  
27 to better serve these women; and

28 WHEREAS, for patients and families, the health  
29 and economic burdens of metastatic breast cancer are  
30 substantial and these patients continue to face many

1 unique challenges, such as the emotional and physical  
2 demands of treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, only about 2 percent of every \$1 million  
4 spent on breast cancer research goes toward metastatic  
5 research; and

6 WHEREAS, additional research efforts are needed on  
7 topics related to the personal and social burdens of  
8 metastatic breast cancer, the needs of the patient,  
9 and the development of new and more effective  
10 treatments; and

11 WHEREAS, the observation of Metastatic Breast  
12 Cancer Awareness Day sheds light on the devastation  
13 that metastatic breast cancer brings to communities  
14 throughout Iowa and may accelerate the funding of and  
15 attention to additional research; and

16 WHEREAS, Celeste Lawson was first inspired to  
17 advocate for legislative support in 2019, for the  
18 purpose of elevating attention and action concerning  
19 metastatic breast cancer awareness in Iowa due to  
20 the passing of her mother, Lois E. Spinks-Lawson, an  
21 African American female who was diagnosed with Stage IV  
22 breast cancer and courageously lost her battle with the  
23 aggressive disease on January 19, 2019; NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
25 the House of Representatives designates October 13,  
26 annually, as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day,  
27 and requests the residents of Iowa, on that day, become  
28 informed about and aware of metastatic breast cancer,  
29 its devastating and lasting effects on Iowa families,  
30 and the need for more specific data collection and

1 additional research.