

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2893**

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Sponsors: Representatives Womble, Parmon, Brown, McGee (Primary Sponsors);  
and Folwell.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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June 29, 2006

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SISTER, SPEAK, A  
2 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA,  
3 IN ITS QUEST TO EDUCATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ABOUT  
4 BREAST HEALTH AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS, TO ENCOURAGE  
5 OTHERS ACROSS THE STATE TO FORM SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS TO  
6 HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN THIS STATE, AND TO HONOR THE  
7 LIVES OF REVEREND CONITA ARCHIE-HUNT, BENITA SIMS, AND  
8 GRETCHEN HOLLAND, WHO WERE ADVOCATES FOR EARLY BREAST  
9 CANCER DETECTION AND QUALITY TREATMENT FOR  
10 AFRICAN-AMERICAN 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 diagnosis  
19 and they do not receive the full range of treatment options after a diagnosis that might  
20 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

1 Program, was started in the City of Winston-Salem in January, 2001, with a grant from  
2 the North Carolina Triad Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and

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

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

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

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

13 Whereas, in 2005, three dedicated members of Sister, Speak died from breast  
14 cancer: Reverend Conita Archie-Hunt on May 24, 2005, Benita Sims on July 1, 2005,  
15 and Gretchen Holland on August 26, 2005; and

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

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

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

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

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

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