**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53‑3‑220 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF JULY OF EACH YEAR AS “FIBROID TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH” AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT UTERINE FIBROID TUMORS HAVE ON WOMEN’S HEALTH.

Whereas, the General Assembly has an interest in protecting and promoting the health and wellness of the state’s citizens and recognizes the importance of shining a spotlight on certain health issues that affect women in particular; and

Whereas, uterine fibroid tumors, clinically known as uterine leiomyoma, are the most common benign tumors in the uterus and the single most common indication for hysterectomy; and

Whereas, three out of four women will have uterine fibroids during their lives and the overall incidence in African American women is estimated to be three to five times higher than the general population; and

Whereas, these benign tumors are a significant cause of pelvic pain, abnormal uterine bleeding, and reproductive dysfunction; and

Whereas, to increase awareness of the prevalence and effect that uterine fibroids have on women’s health, the General Assembly finds it of such importance that it is fitting to designate the month of July of each year as “Fibroid Tumor Awareness Month”. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 53 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 53‑3‑220. The month of July of each year is designated as ‘Fibroid Tumor Awareness Month’ to raise awareness of the impact fibroid tumors have on women’s health.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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