

By: Representative L. Johnson

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO DESIGNATE MAY 2026 AS SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.

### Subtitle

TO DESIGNATE MAY 2026 AS SKIN CANCER  
AWARENESS MONTH.

WHEREAS, skin cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in the United States;  
and

WHEREAS, melanoma and other skin cancers are some of the most  
preventable forms of cancer and account for more than fifty percent (50%) of  
all cancers combined, including breast, lung, and prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, one (1) in five (5) Americans will develop skin cancer in  
their lifetime, and approximately nine thousand five hundred (9,500)  
Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer each day; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that in the United States more than five  
million (5,000,000) people are treated for one (1) or more skin cancers each  
year; and

WHEREAS, more than one million (1,000,000) Americans are living with  
melanoma, and melanoma rates have doubled since the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there will be two hundred thirty-four  
thousand six hundred eighty (234,680) new cases of melanoma diagnosed in  
2026; and



WHEREAS, melanoma is the deadliest skin cancer, and close to nine thousand (9,000) people die from melanoma each year, with one (1) American dying of melanoma every sixty-seven (67) minutes; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that of the one million (1,000,000) newly diagnosed cases of melanoma and other skin cancers each year, an estimated ten thousand seven hundred ten (10,710) people will die; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total direct annual cost of melanoma treatment exceeds two hundred ninety million dollars (\$290,000,000); and

WHEREAS, the annual cost of treating skin cancer in the United States is eight billion one hundred million dollars (\$8,100,000,000), with three billion three hundred million dollars (\$3,300,000,000) allocated to treating melanoma specifically; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Arkansas Dermatological Society are to promote the highest possible standards of clinical practice, education, and research in dermatologic medicine and related disciplines, to promote the public interest relating to dermatology, to advocate on behalf of dermatology and high-quality patient care, and to provide a forum for the discussion of medical and practice related problems; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Chapter of the Dermatology Trainee Advocacy Group is an organization consisting of dermatology trainees and practicing physicians dedicated to promoting the highest standards of clinical practice, education, and research in dermatology, to advocating for policies that improve patient care and the practice of dermatology, to fostering engagement in health policy and community outreach, and to providing a forum for discussion of medical, legislative, and practice-related issues; and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of Dermatology are dedicated to advancing excellence in dermatologic medicine and surgery through leadership in clinical care, medical education, and

innovative research, while striving to improve patient outcomes and uphold the highest standards of practice; and

WHEREAS, it is important to encourage public awareness for Arkansans of the dangers caused by excessive and unprotected direct exposure to the sun and to educate the people of Arkansas about preventative safety measures to decrease the chances of developing all skin cancers, especially melanoma, while still allowing for the safe enjoyment of outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, May is an appropriate month to designate as "Skin Cancer Awareness Month",

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives encourage all Arkansans to have a greater awareness of the risks of skin cancer and the need for the early diagnosis of skin cancer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives designate May 2026 as Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, appropriate copies of this resolution be provided to the Arkansas Dermatological Society, the Arkansas Chapter of the Dermatology Trainee Advocacy Group, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Department of Dermatology.