



A Resolution addressing Uterine Fibroids

Committee: Health

Resolution: HEA-20-01

1. **Whereas** “Uterine Fibroids, also known as uterine leiomyomas or fibroids, are benign
2. smooth muscle tumors of the uterus. Most people have no symptoms while others may
3. have painful or heavy periods.
4. **Whereas** nationally, an estimated 26 million individuals between the ages of 15 and
5. have diagnosed uterine fibroids. Uterine fibroids are the most common gynecological
6. condition, but individuals are frequently unaware of the symptoms of this condition.
7. **Whereas** the symptoms and health outcomes of Uterine Fibroids vary and can include
8. pushing on the bladder causing a frequent need to urinate, pain during sex, lower back
9. pain, difficulty becoming pregnant, heavy menstrual bleeding, chronic severe pain,
10. iron-deficiency, anemia, miscarriages, and infertility.
11. **Whereas** fifty percent of uterine fibroids demonstrate a genetic abnormality. Fibroids are
12. partly genetic. If a mother had fibroids, risk in the daughter is about three times higher
13. than average. Only a few specific genes or cytogenetic deviations are associated with
14. fibroids. Fibroids are also dependent on estrogen and progesterone to grow and therefore
15. relevant only during the reproductive years.
16. **Whereas** Black women have a 3-9 times increased chance of developing uterine fibroids
17. than white women. Eighty percent of African-American women will develop benign
18. uterine fibroid tumors by their late 40s, according to the National Institute of
19. Environmental Health Sciences. African-American women are three to nine times more
20. likely to get fibroids than Caucasian women. In African-American women fibroids seem
21. to occur at a younger age, grow more quickly, and are more likely to cause symptoms.^{1]}
22. This leads to higher rates of surgery for African Americans, both myomectomy, and
23. hysterectomy. Increased risk of fibroids in African- Americans causes them to fare worse
24. in in-vitro fertility treatments and raises their risk of premature births and delivery by

25. Cesarean section.

26. **Whereas** It is unclear why fibroids are more common in African American women.

27. Some studies suggest that black women who are obese and who have high blood pressure

28. are more likely to have fibroids. Other suggested causes include the tendency of African

29. American women to consume food with less than the daily requirements for vitamin D.

30. **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the National Organization of Black Elected

31. Legislative Women will advocate for funding to expand basic, clinical, and translational

32. research into the mechanics of fibroids, identification of early diagnostic methods, and

33. fertility-preserving treatments.

34. **Be it finally resolved** that NOBEL Women will collaborate with research that seeks to

35. understand the significant health disparities among individuals with fibroids should also

36. be prioritized, given that Black women are at increased risk for fibroids, tend to develop

37. symptoms at a younger age, and suffer more severe symptoms.

**Introduced by: The Honorable Tonya Anderson
Georgia General Assembly**

[1] [Uterine fibroid - Wikipedia](#)