

## Senate Resolution 596

By: Senators Hooks of the 14th, Starr of the 44th, Gillis of the 20th, Dean of the 31st, Price of the 56th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing Hospital Day at the Capitol on February 18, 2002; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, there are approximately 200 acute, psychiatric and rehabilitative hospitals in  
3 Georgia which operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; and
- 4 WHEREAS, hospitals and health systems provide outpatient and inpatient services including  
5 preventive, tertiary, clinical, post acute, skilled nursing and home health care; and
- 6 WHEREAS, hospitals and health systems strive to provide the highest quality care to patients  
7 through continuous quality improvements measures; and
- 8 WHEREAS, hospitals are labor intensive, requiring the skills of more than 100,00 employees  
9 in Georgia; and
- 10 WHEREAS, hospital health professionals provide quality and compassionate care and are  
11 on the front line in the event of a natural disaster and saving the lives of thousands of  
12 Georgians each year; and
- 13 WHEREAS, hospitals are the economic backbone of many communities in Georgia as a  
14 large employer contributing more than \$26 billion annually directly and indirectly to the  
15 state's economy; and
- 16 WHEREAS, hospital uncompensated care costs, including under-funding from public and  
17 private insurers, have attributed to the financial hardships of hospitals with more than 130  
18 of Georgia's hospitals operating at a deficit in providing patient care; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Georgia hospitals provide more than \$750 million annually in uncompensated  
20 care to patients without insurance and who cannot afford health care services; and

1 WHEREAS, hospitals are a tremendous asset to the infrastructure of the communities they  
2 serve through the jobs they provide and their ability to attract new business and industry to  
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, cutbacks in Medicaid and Medicare funding, slow payments by insurers and the  
5 growing number of uninsured have resulted in 14 hospital closures since 1997; and

6 WHEREAS, hospitals and health systems are faced with difficult challenges including  
7 workforce shortages, disaster readiness and liability premium increases.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
9 commend and congratulate all of the hospitals in Georgia and recognize Hospital Day at the  
10 Capitol on February 18, 2002.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Joseph Parker, President, Georgia  
13 Hospital Association.