

House Resolution 1536

By: Representatives Henson of the 65th, Childers of the 13th, Drenner of the 66th and Parham of the 122nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging increased education, awareness, and data gathering relevant to the critical issue of
2 Hepatitis C; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a major public health problem that affects 4 million Americans
4 and 100,000 Georgians each year; and

5 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a chronic liver disease that is the leading cause of liver
6 transplantation and results in 10,000 deaths annually from cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver
7 failure; and

8 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C currently accounts for approximately \$600 million in medical
9 expenses and work loss, excluding transplantation; and

10 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C affects rural populations disproportionately, and Georgia has 117
11 counties which are medically underserved; and

12 WHEREAS, detection is possible through blood screenings and is effective in up to 40
13 percent of cases treated; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly is committed to preserving and protecting the
15 health of the citizens of Georgia.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Human Resources,
17 Division of Public Health is urged to place greater emphasis on the public health implications
18 of Hepatitis C and initiate efforts to inform this body about programs and policies designed
19 to enhance education, awareness, detection, and prevention of this disease.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Community Health is urged to assess
2 the status of Hepatitis C among enrollees of Medicaid, PeachCare, the State Health Benefit
3 Plan, and the Board of Regents Plan.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Corrections is urged to coordinate
5 efforts to address the needs of the prison population regarding screening and treatment for
6 Hepatitis C.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is urged to help reduce the
8 health risks of Hepatitis C by including information about its causes, conditions, and
9 problems in the curriculum of Georgia's public schools.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the above efforts be reported in the form
11 of recommendations to the Health and Ecology Committee of the House of Representatives,
12 ad hoc committee on Hepatitis C.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to distribute copies of this resolution to interested and affected parties as may
15 be appropriate.