

Senate Resolution 155

By: Senator Dean of the 31st

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing regret at the passing of Curtis Lee Pickett and recognizing April as Sleep Apnea  
2 Awareness Month; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Curtis Lee Pickett of Austell, Georgia, died on July 6, 2002, due to  
4 complications from the disorder known as sleep apnea in which air passages are blocked  
5 while sleeping; and

6 WHEREAS, in November, 1992, Curtis was diagnosed with sleep apnea when he quit  
7 breathing 47 times an hour during his sleep studies test and would have to sit up to resume  
8 breathing; and

9 WHEREAS, various life-threatening complications are medically associated with and  
10 exacerbated by sleep apnea, including hypertension, heart attacks, strokes, arrhythmias, lung  
11 disease and breathing problems, diabetes, and impotency; and

12 WHEREAS, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines are used to keep a sleep  
13 apnea patient's respiratory tract open while sleeping and eliminate apnea and snoring; and

14 WHEREAS, the *Harvard Health Letter* reports that although sleep apnea affects an estimated  
15 18 million Americans, the disorder often goes undiagnosed and the vast majority remain  
16 untreated and may be responsible for job impairment, workplace injuries, and vehicle  
17 crashes.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
19 express regret at the loss of Curtis Lee Pickett to the tragic disorder known as sleep apnea  
20 and recognize April as Sleep Apnea Awareness Month in memory of this fine Georgian who  
21 encouraged public education and awareness of this illness and the availability of treatment.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 2 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ann L. Pickett.