

## House Resolution 351

By: Representatives Mobley of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Stephenson of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, Orrock of the 51<sup>st</sup>, Thomas of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Post 1, Harrell of the 54<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the United States Senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
2 Discrimination Against Women and urging the United States Congress to affirm women's  
3 fundamental right to reproductive health; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, International Women's Day, celebrated throughout the world on March 8, is a  
5 time to reflect on the status of women in the United States and around the world, to assess  
6 progress made and challenges ahead, and to recommit to women's human rights and the full  
7 empowerment of the world's women as the basis for truly sustainable social, economic, and  
8 political development of nations and communities; and
- 9 WHEREAS, 228 million women are in need of effective contraceptive methods; and
- 10 WHEREAS, approximately 500,000 women a year die as a result of pregnancy and  
11 childbirth related causes and, for every woman who dies, 30 other women are injured or  
12 disabled; and
- 13 WHEREAS, between 700,000 and four million people, mainly women and children, are  
14 trafficked across international borders annually for sexual exploitation and forced labor; and
- 15 WHEREAS, annually, 50,000 to 100,000 women and girls are trafficked into the United  
16 States for sexual exploitation; and
- 17 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS is a women's epidemic worldwide with 19.2 million women  
18 currently living with HIV/AIDS and 1.2 million women dying of AIDS in 2002; and
- 19 WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS has been the fifth leading cause of death for women ages 25 to 44  
20 in the United States and the third leading cause of death for African American women in this  
21 same age group for several years; and

1 WHEREAS, gender based violence against women, including prenatal sex selection, female  
2 infanticide, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, school and workplace sexual harassment,  
3 sexual trafficking and exploitation, prostitution, dowry killings, domestic violence, battering,  
4 and marital rape, causes more death and disability among women in the 15 to 44 age group  
5 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and even war; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately 4.8 million rapes or physical assaults, or both, are perpetrated  
7 against women in the United States annually; and

8 WHEREAS, women in many countries lack rights to own land and inherit property, obtain  
9 credit, attend and stay in school, earn income, work free from job discrimination, and access  
10 services that meet their sexual and reproductive health needs; and

11 WHEREAS, 2.1 billion women live on less than two dollars a day, and women in the United  
12 States earn 73 cents on average for every dollar earned by men; and

13 WHEREAS, two-thirds of the 960 million illiterate adults in the world are women and  
14 two-thirds of the 130 million children not enrolled in primary school are girls.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 GEORGIA that the State of Georgia urges the United States Senate to demonstrate our  
17 nation's commitment to human rights by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All  
18 Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), joining 170 other nations in endorsing  
19 the most comprehensive treaty ensuring the fundamental human rights and equality of  
20 women.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Georgia urges the United States Congress  
22 to affirm women's fundamental right to reproductive health, including the ability to choose  
23 the number of children they will have and the timing of their births by funding high quality,  
24 voluntary family planning and reproductive health services that enable women to exercise  
25 this right.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the Georgia  
28 congressional delegation.