

House Resolution 1642

By: Representatives Thomas of the 43rd, Post 1, Stanley-Turner of the 43rd, Post 2, Beasley-Teague of the 48th, Post 2, Henson of the 55th, and Harrell of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing obesity as an increasing health concern and cause of rising medical costs in
2 Georgia and declaring the month of November as Obesity Awareness Month; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia's leaders have a responsibility to encourage and promote healthy
5 lifestyles for the citizens of this state including communicating information about healthy
6 diet and the importance of physical activity; and

7 WHEREAS, obesity is a serious medical condition and the number of overweight and obese
8 adults increased 60 percent between 1984 and 2002 and presently 59 percent of adult
9 Georgians are overweight or obese, and the frequency of these conditions increases with age;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, 30 percent of middle school students and 27 percent of high school students are
12 overweight or at risk of being overweight; and

13 WHEREAS, overweight and obese adults are at increased risk for cardiovascular disease,
14 diabetes, stroke, hypertension, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, and some cancers; and

15 WHEREAS, overweight children are at increased risk for hypertension, asthma, sleep apnea,
16 and diabetes as well as poor psychosocial functioning and decreased well-being; and

17 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of death; and

18 WHEREAS, a study by the Centers for Disease Control estimates that U.S.
19 obesity-attributable medical expenditures reached \$75 billion in 2003 and that taxpayers
20 financed about half of these costs through medicare and Medicaid; and

1 WHEREAS, in Georgia, over 7 percent or \$405 million of medical expenditures are
2 attributable to obesity in the medicare population and over 10 percent or \$385 million of
3 medical expenditures in Georgia are attributable to obesity in the Medicaid population; and

4 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the citizens of this state to continue to implement
5 effective existing methods of treatment and prevention of adult and childhood obesity and
6 to reduce the potential for other serious medical conditions caused or exacerbated by obesity;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, education, prevention, and proper treatment of obesity can reduce health care
9 costs and improve the quality of life for a significant number of adults and children in
10 Georgia.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 the members of this body urge communities, businesses, and schools throughout this state
13 to develop awareness campaigns and voluntary programs appropriate to their settings which
14 focus on the causes of obesity, the symptoms and long-term consequences associated with
15 obesity, and the healthy alternatives for food choices and appropriate programs of physical
16 fitness which lead to control of weight and improved lifestyle.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of November is declared Obesity Awareness
18 Month in Georgia.