

Senate Resolution 78

By: Senators Williams of the 19th, Staton of the 18th, Johnson of the 1st and Moody of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to approve the waivers
2 requested by Georgia to further expand Georgia's self-directed care initiative; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, when elderly and disabled persons have choices regarding their health care, they
5 can make the right choice for their lives, save the state money by making wiser individual
6 choices, and be more satisfied with their health care; and

7 WHEREAS, self-directed care initiatives in Arkansas, Florida, and New Jersey have been
8 shown to reduce overall Medicaid expenditures even while both the quantity and quality of
9 services rises; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved
11 programs that provide funding flexibility for persons with physical disabilities and/or
12 traumatic brain injury to participate in the self-directed care initiative and has encouraged
13 states to implement such programs; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may also permit self-
15 directed care initiatives for persons with developmental disabilities through the Mental
16 Retardation Waiver Program (MRWP) and for senior adults and those who are functionally
17 impaired/disabled through the Community Care Service Program (CCSP).

18 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that the members of this body
19 hereby support the implementation of a Long-term Care Self-Directed Care Initiative,
20 offering choice and flexibility to Georgia citizens using the Community Care Service
21 Program, Mental Retardation Waiver, and Independent Care Waiver.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body hereby urges the federal
23 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to approve the waivers requested by Georgia

- 1 for the Mental Retardation Waiver Program and the Community Care Service Program to
- 2 further expand Georgia's self-directed care initiative.