

Senate Resolution 202

By: Senator Balfour of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the establishment of the Georgia Campus - Philadelphia
2 College of Osteopathic Medicine; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has an unsurpassed commitment to improving the health
4 and well-being of its citizens, including increased state-wide access to quality, affordable
5 health care by equipping physicians and health professionals with the best medical education
6 resources available; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia has now fallen to the rank of 38th in the nation in the number of
8 physicians per patient, significantly limiting the delivery of quality health care services and
9 thereby adversely impacting Georgians' health outcomes; and

10 WHEREAS, responding to this growing crisis and the concerns of Georgia policy makers
11 and health care professionals, the Osteopathic Institute of the South has invited the
12 Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) to establish a campus of the
13 renowned school in the State of Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine was founded in 1899 with
15 a mission to train students to become skilled, caring, and successful physicians guided by the
16 strengths of osteopathic principles refined during a century of medical practice, teaching, and
17 research; and

18 WHEREAS, the school's dedication to educating physicians in treating a patient's body,
19 lifestyle, and behavior as a whole has since blossomed to include advanced degree programs
20 in psychology, physician assistant studies, biomedical sciences, and forensic medicine,
21 making PCOM one of the largest medical schools in the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine now seeks to enhance its
23 longstanding commitment to primary health care and replicate the success of its historic

1 mission by establishing the Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
2 in Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, PCOM has recently purchased a 20 acre campus in Gwinnett County where it
4 is building a technologically-advanced facility for 21st century medical education; and

5 WHEREAS, under the visionary leadership of President Matthew Schure, the President's
6 Cabinet, Vice Dean and Chief Academic Officer Paul Evans, Campus Executive Officer John
7 Fleishmann, and an exceptional faculty and administration, the school will welcome its
8 inaugural class of 85 highly motivated and qualified students in August of 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, PCOM is committed to true partnership with Georgia's existing medical schools
10 and institutions of higher education, hospitals and health care institutions, health
11 professionals, and community and political leadership in working daily to train doctors both
12 qualified and committed to meet the health care needs of our citizens, especially those in the
13 minority, rural, and underserved areas of our state.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that members of this body
15 join in welcoming the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine to Georgia and
16 commend the administration, faculty, and students for their commitment to excellence in
17 medical education and for working in partnership to establish a healthier Georgia.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
19 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the administration of the Georgia
20 Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.