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## By: Senators Rogers of the 21st and Shafer of the 48th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Health Care Decisions Week in Georgia; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, it is vitally important for an individual to consider health care decisions that3 may arise in the future; and

WHEREAS, health care planning is a process, rather than a single decision, that helps people
consider the kind of care they would want to receive in the event of a serious illness or
incapacitation, encourages them to discuss these issues with their loved ones and physicians,

7 and assists them in documenting their wishes in writing; and

8 WHEREAS, advance directives give individuals the ability to document their wishes relating
9 to health care decisions and to delegate a representative to speak for them should they

10 become unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, introducing these issues in community settings can help people begin
conversations about their health care wishes with a family member, close friend, physician,
or faith leader; and

WHEREAS, Georgia has a number of local coalitions throughout the state that are working
to involve individuals and families in health care planning through educational forums,
discussion groups, speakers' bureaus, and training; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Collaborative to Improve End of Life Care, a network of more than
20 concerned nonprofit organizations, has been working to improve the experience of dying
for Georgians since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's "Critical Conditions" program, which has received national recognition as one of the most comprehensive advanced-care planning programs in the nation, is being utilized by over 100 facilities, Georgia's area agencies on aging, and public

- 1 health offices throughout the state to help Georgians discuss and plan for their care at the end
- 2 of life.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body recognizes
  November 7-13, 2005, as Health Care Decisions Week in Georgia.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages all citizens to think about and talk
- 6 with loved ones about their wishes for medical care.