

Senate Resolution 349

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Thomas of the 54th and Smith of the 52nd

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 that
3 may arise in the future; and

4 WHEREAS, health care planning is a process, rather than a single decision, that helps people
5 consider the kind of care they would want to receive in the event of a serious illness or
6 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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia Collaborative to Improve End of Life Care, a network of more than
18 20 concerned nonprofit organizations, has been working to improve the experience of dying
19 for Georgians since 1998; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia's "Critical Conditions" program, which has received national
21 recognition as one of the most comprehensive advanced-care planning programs in the
22 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.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body recognizes
4 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.