

Senate Resolution 435

By: Senator Butler of the 55th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State of Georgia to work toward the passage of legislation that will establish a  
2 system of stroke care for all state residents stricken by stroke; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the American Stroke Association, strokes are the third leading  
4 cause of death in the United States, striking about 700,000 Americans each year; and

5 WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability in the United States  
6 with about 4.8 million stroke survivors today; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2004 the estimated direct and indirect cost of stroke is about \$53.6 billion  
8 dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Science has  
10 concluded that the fragmentation of the delivery of health care services frequently results in  
11 less than optimal treatment, safety concerns, and inefficient use of health care resources; and

12 WHEREAS, the IOM recommended the establishment of coordinated systems of care that  
13 integrate preventative and treatment services and promote patient access to evidence based  
14 care; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the American Stroke Association, research into a systems approach  
16 is necessary to effectuate true change in the way stroke is treated statewide so that patients  
17 have access to the most advanced treatment in centers that are best designed and equipped  
18 to deal with the critical and time sensitive needs of stroke patients; and

19 WHEREAS, the main purpose of stroke systems legislation is to establish a systems  
20 approach to dealing with stroke patients, including assessing center designations, EMS  
21 protocols and field triage, interfacility stroke transfer, and stroke data collection.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
2 urge the State of Georgia to work toward the passage of legislation that will establish a  
3 system of stroke care for all state residents stricken by stroke.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
5 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Governor Sonny Perdue and the American  
6 Stroke Association.