

Senate Resolution 521

By: Senator Hill of the 32nd

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging all Georgians to learn about congenital heart disease and cardiovascular disease  
2 and to have regular and frequent health exams; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, congenital heart disease, or structural problems of the heart present at birth, is  
4 the most common birth defect, affecting one in 100 newborn babies; and

5 WHEREAS, more than two million Americans have a congenital heart defect, and it is the  
6 number one cause of death in infancy; and

7 WHEREAS, in America, a child is born with congenital heart disease approximately every  
8 15 minutes; and

9 WHEREAS, more people die from sudden cardiac arrest each year than from breast cancer,  
10 prostate cancer, AIDS, handguns, house fires, and traffic accidents combined; and

11 WHEREAS, the majority of these people had no previously reported symptoms of heart  
12 disease; and

13 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is also the leading cause of adult disability as every year  
14 1.2 million people suffer a heart attack and 700,000 people experience a stroke; and

15 WHEREAS, beyond the sheer loss of life, cardiovascular disease accounts for an estimated  
16 \$370 billion annually in direct and indirect cost; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has suffered the loss of young student athletes because of  
18 undetected heart defects; and

1 WHEREAS, even with the most advanced medical care available in the United States, if the  
2 population lacks the information and education for the diagnosis and treatment of these  
3 cardiovascular diseases, then the current trend will continue.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
5 encourage all Georgians to educate themselves about congenital heart disease and  
6 cardiovascular disease and to have regular and frequent health exams so that they can  
7 become healthier and lead more independent and productive lives.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
9 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Heart Association and  
10 Governor Sonny Perdue.