07 LC 96 2421

Senate Resolution 354

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending public health nurses of Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, public health nurses are an integral part of the health care system, providing
- 3 preventive and health promotion services for optimal health to citizens in every community
- 4 of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, public health nurses empower citizens with knowledge and help link Georgians
- 6 to needed health care; and
- 7 WHEREAS, these professionals serve the residents of all 159 Georgia counties, often as the
- 8 major health care resource for Georgians in rural areas; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in 2006, Georgia public health nurses collected 10,621 specimens for
- 10 tuberculosis laboratory culture, screened 8,116 contacts of TB cases, started 1,062 contacts
- on preventive medication, and educated 2,390 health care providers and 3,550 citizens about
- 12 TB prevention and treatment; and
- WHEREAS, Georgia public health nurses tested 111,667 individuals for HIV and treated
- 14 9,500 persons infected with HIV with medication, case management, and supportive
- 15 services; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Georgia public health nurses administered approximately 610,500
- 17 immunizations, performing flu shots for 273,541 individuals; and
- 18 WHEREAS, public health nurses are responsible for the massive task of screening Georgians
- 19 to check for various health conditions, and in 2006, the Georgia Division of Public Health
- 20 screened 3,658 children for chronic medical conditions, 24,500 persons for hypertension,
- 21 2,100 persons for diabetes mellitus, 16,385 persons for breast cancer, and over 120,000
- 22 persons for cervical cancer; and

07 LC 96 2421

1 WHEREAS, public health nurses have a broad knowledge of nursing and public health

- 2 sciences, and they have effective relationships with community partners; and
- 3 WHEREAS, public health nurses are trained in all hazards emergency preparedness to be
- 4 ready to respond to the community's needs; and
- 5 WHEREAS, public health nurses are experienced in managing both the mass vaccination
- 6 clinics associated with influenza vaccine and the emotional highs and lows of the populations
- 7 served; and
- 8 WHEREAS, public health nurses are considered first responders in cases of bio-terrorism or
- 9 natural disaster events and they will be there to answer questions, to immunize, and to lead
- and guide their communities to safety; and
- WHEREAS, the public health nurse listens to family concerns, educates the family on
- 12 disease prevention and safety, and develops trusting relationships with families to address
- 13 needs that the family may have now and in the future; and
- 14 WHEREAS, all Georgians owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to public health nurses for the
- outstanding contributions they make to health care in our state.
- 16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
- 17 commend public health nurses and thank them for their invaluable contributions to the health
- 18 and well-being of all Georgians.
- 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the chief nurse for public health at the
- 21 Department of Human Resources, Carole Jakeway; and to Cathalene Teahan.