

Senate Resolution 706

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Adelman of the 42nd, Harp of the 29th, Unterman of the 45th,
Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress and the President to enact legislation to increase physician
2 residencies funded by medicare in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the average life expectancy in the United States has increased to 80 years of
4 age, causing an ever-increasing demand for medical care; and

5 WHEREAS, one-third (approximately 250,000) of active physicians are over the age of 55
6 and are likely to retire in the next ten years, while the population will have increased by 24
7 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Council on Graduate Medical Education stated in a report to
9 Congress that there will be a shortage of not fewer than 90,000 full-time physicians by 2020;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the number of physician residencies has been capped for medicare
12 reimbursement purposes for over ten years and has not kept pace with the growth or needs
13 of the population; and

14 WHEREAS, medicare is a major source of funding of physician residencies; and

15 WHEREAS, a major limiting factor in training new physicians is the lack of residencies for
16 graduate medical education; and

17 WHEREAS, this is particularly critical in a growing state such as Georgia where the shortage
18 of physicians is acute; and

19 WHEREAS, without an increase in the number of doctors being trained in the near term,
20 there is likely to be a significant crisis in health care in the long term.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 urge the United States Congress and the President to enact legislation, such as H.R. 410 and
3 H.R. 1093, to increase the number of physician residencies funded by medicare in Georgia
4 in order to ensure that a sufficient number of physicians may obtain the graduate medical
5 training needed to service the needs of our population.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
7 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia congressional delegation and
8 President George W. Bush.