

## House Resolution 1713

By: Representatives Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Walker of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Channell of the 116<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the  
2 Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services submit to the  
3 General Assembly a multiyear comprehensive plan for creating a system of supports for  
4 home and community based services that support independent living of Georgians with  
5 disabilities; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the provision of services and support for people with disabilities and their  
7 families has changed in recent years to focus less on institutional care and more toward  
8 providing home and community based services (HCBS) that allow people with  
9 developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and mental illness to  
10 receive the support necessary to live independent and productive lives in the community; and

11 WHEREAS, it is desirable to provide home and community based services for some  
12 individuals with disabilities and to avoid the use of institutions; and

13 WHEREAS, this state remains committed to providing people with opportunities for real  
14 homes, jobs, learning experiences, recreation, and real choice in their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the *Olmstead* decision, which covers  
16 people currently institutionalized and at risk of institutionalization; and

17 WHEREAS, there are almost 5,000 people with developmental disabilities, physical  
18 disabilities, or traumatic brain injury on HCBS waiver waiting lists; and

19 WHEREAS, the demographics of Georgia indicate that an estimated 17,000 people with  
20 disabilities are living with aging caregivers and this growing population will also need HCBS  
21 should their caregivers become unable to provide support; and

22 WHEREAS, helping people remain with their current communities makes more sense  
23 economically than paying expensive institutional costs later; and

24 WHEREAS, a multiple year strategic plan and corresponding funding plan are needed to  
25 build community capacity which will also assist state agencies and the legislature to remain  
26 focused on priorities in both good and bad economic times; and

27 WHEREAS, with a multiple year funding plan, Georgia will have the comprehensive system  
28 of supports and services in ten years that enable all people to live, work, play, and worship  
29 in their communities of choice, and allow Georgians to age in place with their families,  
30 friends, and neighbors; and

31 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the General Assembly and the State of Georgia to  
32 have a multiyear strategic development plan for providing Georgians with an accessible  
33 community based system of services and supports that projects necessary appropriations for  
34 Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2017; and

35 WHEREAS, this comprehensive plan should be submitted to the Speaker of the House of  
36 Representatives no later than July 1, 2010, and should include considerations of the  
37 NOW/COMP waivers which support people with developmental disabilities, the ICWP  
38 waiver which supports people with physical disabilities and traumatic brain injury, state  
39 funded family support, funds for community based mental health services, and funds  
40 necessary to supply provider rates that meet the realistic costs of providing services and  
41 increase the capacity of community based providers.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
43 the members of this body urge the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental  
44 Disabilities, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services  
45 to provide the General Assembly with a strategic plan, developed with the *Olmstead*  
46 coordinator, which sets priorities for home and community based services for people with  
47 developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health issues, and traumatic brain  
48 injury and to support a multiyear funding commitment projecting the appropriations  
49 necessary to address the need for services for these Georgians.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
51 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Board of Behavioral

- 52 Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Board of Community Health, and the Board of
- 53 Human Services.