

House Resolution 39

By: Representative Neal of the 1<sup>st</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring January 15, 2009, as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States comprises only 4% of the world's population, yet consumes  
4 over 60% of the world's illegal drugs; and

5 WHEREAS, children who start to drink alcohol before the age of 15 are four times more  
6 likely to become alcoholics than those who don't drink before they turn 21; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2007, only 10% of the over 23 million Americans who needed help for  
8 alcohol and drug addiction were treated; and

9 WHEREAS, approximately 80% of Georgia's prison inmates are abusers of alcohol or other  
10 drugs, but only 10% receive substance abuse treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, successful substance abuse prevention and treatment has been shown to reduce  
12 crime, increase workplace productivity, and improve overall relationships and quality of life;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, it is important to put an end to discrimination against individuals with addiction  
15 illnesses and remove the stigma that exists so that more people in trouble will seek out proper  
16 care and treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, several organizations made up of dedicated substance abuse treatment  
18 professionals are available in Georgia to provide assistance and information to those  
19 suffering with addiction, including the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences, the  
20 Georgia Addiction Counselors Association, and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse;  
21 and

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body applaud the contributions and efforts of those working in the  
24 addiction recovery profession to assist patients suffering from substance abuse problems.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thursday, January 15, 2009, is recognized as Addiction  
26 Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol.