

Senate Resolution 281

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to enact the Prevention First Act (H.R. 463/S.21); and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, improving access to preventive health care and supporting healthy families
4 should be a shared national goal; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Georgia has the 7th
6 highest number of AIDS cases in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Guttmacher Institute studies show
8 Georgia has the 8th highest teenage pregnancy rate of any state; and

9 WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes that Guttmacher Institute studies show that
10 even prior to current budget cuts, family planning clinics in Georgia served only 41 percent
11 of all women in need of publicly supported contraceptive services; and

12 WHEREAS, increased funding from the federal government would ameliorate the problems
13 of unintended pregnancies and high rates of sexually transmitted disease, as well as the
14 current insufficient levels of funds to address these crises; and

15 WHEREAS, the Prevention First Act (H.R. 463/S.21) introduced in the 111th Congress is
16 an omnibus family planning initiative that expands access to preventive health care services
17 and education programs to help reduce unintended pregnancy, improve birth outcomes,
18 prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections, and support healthy families by
19 improving women's health. This federal legislation offers to amend public health legislation,
20 including Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title V, Title VI, Title VII, and Title VIII; and

21 WHEREAS, Title I should be amended to authorize \$700 million in funding for Title X
22 family planning clinics; and

23 WHEREAS, Title II should be amended to require private health plans to cover
24 FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services; and

25 WHEREAS, Title III should be amended to direct the Secretary of Health and Human
26 Services to develop and disseminate information about emergency contraception to the
27 public and to health care providers; and

28 WHEREAS, Title IV should be amended to require that hospitals receiving federal funds
29 provide victims of sexual assault with information and access to emergency contraception;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Title V should be amended to provide annual funding to public and private
32 entities to establish or expand teenage pregnancy prevention programs; and

33 WHEREAS, Title VI should be amended to require federally funded programs that provide
34 information on the use of contraceptives to ensure that the information is medically accurate
35 and includes health benefits and failure rates; and

36 WHEREAS, Title VII should be amended to strengthen Medicaid coverage of family
37 planning services; and

38 WHEREAS, Title VIII should be amended to provide for abstinence-based, comprehensive,
39 medically accurate sex education programs that teach young people about making healthy,
40 responsible decisions, and includes information about abstinence, health, and contraceptives;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, sponsored by Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Representative Louise Slaughter
43 (D-NY), respectively, such legislation is supported by public health advocates groups across
44 the nation.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 fully support and strongly encourage the passage of the Prevention First Act (H.R. 463/S.21).

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Governor Sonny Perdue, President
49 Barack Obama, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
50 House of Representatives, and each member of the Georgia Congressional Delegation.