

## House Resolution 316

By: Representative Channell of the 116<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging and requesting the Department of Community Health to work in conjunction with  
2 state-wide medical organizations representing pediatric physicians to obtain or prepare and  
3 disseminate written materials, at appropriate literacy levels, containing information about the  
4 possible complications, proper care, and support for pre-term infants; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the rate of pre-term births in Georgia continues to escalate, increasing 16  
6 percent between 1994 and 2004, with a pre-term birth rate of 13.6 percent in Georgia in  
7 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, the medical, educational, and lost productivity costs associated with pre-term  
9 birth in the United States was at least \$26 billion in 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, low birth weight, especially in conjunction with environmental stress, is  
11 associated with the development of diabetes and other chronic diseases later in life; and

12 WHEREAS, it is a fact that pre-term infants are more likely to have health problems that  
13 result in re-hospitalization; and

14 WHEREAS, the leading causes of rehospitalization for all infants includes bronchiolitis,  
15 dehydration, jaundice, and pneumonia.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
17 this body does hereby urge and request the Department of Community Health to work in  
18 conjunction with state-wide medical organizations representing pediatric physicians to obtain  
19 or prepare and disseminate written materials, at appropriate literacy levels, detailing  
20 information about the possible complications, proper care, and support for pre-term infants  
21 to include:

22 (1) The unique health issues affecting pre-term infants such as the increased risk of  
23 developmental problems, nutritional challenges, infection, chronic lung disease, vision and

24 hearing impairment, breathing problems, feeding, maintaining body temperature, jaundice,  
25 hyperactivity, and respiratory problems;

26 (2) The proper care needs of pre-term infants, developmental screening and monitoring,  
27 and healthcare services available in the public sector;

28 (3) Methods, vaccines, and other preventive measures to protect pre-term infants from  
29 infectious diseases, including viral respiratory infections;

30 (4) The leading causes of infant hospitalization and how they contribute to poor health  
31 outcomes and increased morbidity and mortality; and

32 (5) The emotional and financial burdens and other challenges that parents and family  
33 members of premature infants experience and information about community resources  
34 available to support them.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Community Health is urged to work  
36 with state-wide pediatric medical organizations to identify existing materials, including  
37 nonbranded materials produced by pharmaceutical and biochemical companies available for  
38 use by Medicaid providers, hospital neonatal intensive care units, pediatric intensive care  
39 units, and well baby clinics that can be distributed to children's health providers, maternal  
40 care providers, hospitals, and other public health agencies or entities deemed appropriate by  
41 the department.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of  
44 Community Health.