

Senate Resolution 915

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Rogers of the 21st, Unterman of the 45th, Buckner of the 44th, Harp of the 29th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and
2 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ignore the recent guidelines for breast cancer
3 screenings by the United States Preventive Services Task Force; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently issued
5 guidelines for breast cancer screenings which delay initial mammograms for women from
6 age 40 to age 50; and

7 WHEREAS, the USPSTF guidelines provide for biennial screenings for women in their 50's
8 in contrast to current guidelines which provide for yearly mammograms; and

9 WHEREAS, the USPSTF seems overly concerned with the harm of screenings, such as
10 discomfort from the mammography procedure and anxiety due to recall, ultrasound, and
11 needle biopsies; and

12 WHEREAS, the public understands that mammography is not a perfect test and is willing
13 to accept minor inconveniences in order to maximize the opportunity of finding a cancer
14 sooner by early screening; and

15 WHEREAS, the data used by the USPSTF is recognized by many as being inaccurate and
16 not supported by statistically valid methodologies; and

17 WHEREAS, evidence based randomized control trials clearly show a major benefit from
18 screenings and mammographies for all populations in the trials, including the 40-49 year old
19 group;

20 WHEREAS, the expanded use of screenings and mammographies for women beginning in
21 their 40's over the past several decades has lead to a 30 percent decrease in the annual
22 number of deaths from breast cancer; and

23 WHEREAS, delaying screenings and mammographies has the distinct potential to place
24 women's lives at risk by allowing breast cancers to grow and not be found until it is too late;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and
27 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should not change present procedures and
28 should not adopt these clearly dangerous and harmful guidelines that place the health of
29 women at risk.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 urge the United States Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the
32 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ignore the recent guidelines for breast cancer
33 screenings by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia
36 Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the director of
37 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.