

## Senate Resolution 524

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th and Miller of the 49th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Congressional delegation to pursue an equitable, long-term resolution  
2 to the sustainable growth rate formula determining medicare reimbursements for Georgia  
3 physicians; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, nearly 15 percent of Georgians are eligible for medicare coverage yet face an  
5 acute shortage of eligible primary care physicians to choose from; and

6 WHEREAS, *HealthLeaders Media* reports that "Congress' refusal to provide a permanent  
7 fix to the formula will be a disincentive for physicians who will likely limit patient care"; and

8 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services predicts a nearly 30  
9 percent cut will take effect January 1, 2012, when the most recent Congressional  
10 authorization expires, and the American Medical Association warns that a failure to prevent  
11 the cut would be a catastrophe for seniors because doctors would stop seeing medicare  
12 patients altogether; and

13 WHEREAS, the administration budget narrative for Fiscal Year 2012 states, "the  
14 Administration is committed to working with the Congress to achieve permanent, fiscally  
15 responsible reform and to give physicians incentives to improve quality and efficiency while  
16 providing them with predictable payments for the care they furnish to Medicare  
17 beneficiaries"; and

18 WHEREAS, the sustainable growth rate formula was designed to index physician  
19 reimbursements to the growth of the economy, yet most medical providers believe it is in  
20 need of reform to an equitable, manageable, and predictable future.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
22 support the medical providers who offer exceptional care to Georgia's senior citizens and

23 urge the Georgia Congressional delegation to seek and support a permanent resolution to the  
24 issues of medicare reimbursement this year.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
26 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the members of the Georgia congressional  
27 delegation.