

Senate Resolution 808

By: Senators James of the 35th, Davenport of the 44th, Davis of the 22nd, Seay of the 34th and Fort of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Transverse Myelitis Association and recognizing February 15, 2012, as
2 Health Awareness Day at the capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a disease known as Transverse Myelitis, which affects more than 1,250
4 Americans, is not widely recognized by the medical profession or the general public as being
5 a significant serious spinal cord condition; and

6 WHEREAS, Transverse Myelitis is a devastating condition that can affect a person in a
7 variety of ways; affecting the neurological system, the spinal cord becomes inflamed, which
8 can occur as a single condition or in the presence of an existing illness; and

9 WHEREAS, symptoms which can be physically debilitating include back pain, numbness
10 of the lower extremities, and headache, and as the condition progresses, the eventual outcome
11 is paralysis, sensory loss, and bowel and bladder dysfunction; and

12 WHEREAS, historically, scientific research has indicated that Transverse Myelitis was an
13 extremely rare condition occurring in only one out of every one million people, but more
14 recent findings have indicated that the incidence of this condition has risen nearly 400
15 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, the Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA), a not-for-profit organization, has
17 seen an increase from 180 members in 1997 to over 1,250 in 1998, and the numbers are
18 rapidly increasing; and

19 WHEREAS, many medical professionals are unaware of this condition and the needs of
20 patients with it, and while spinal cord injuries have been well publicized lately in the media,
21 Transverse Myelitis is often overlooked; and

22 WHEREAS, recovering from Transverse Myelitis can also be difficult; only one-third of
23 patients make a full recovery, and treatment may take months with no guarantee of
24 improvement; and

25 WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the State of Georgia and its citizens to raise awareness
26 of Transverse Myelitis so that diagnosis and further scientific research may benefit those who
27 suffer from this condition.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend the Transverse Myelitis Association for its efforts and dedication to combating
30 Transverse Myelitis, encourage citizens to educate themselves and others on the issues of
31 Transverse Myelitis patients, and recognize February 15, 2012, as Health Awareness Day at
32 the capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Transverse Myelitis Association and
35 the public and the press.