

Senate Resolution 20

By: Senators James of the 35th, Davenport of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th and Henson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that all physicians include autism spectrum disorders screening in all well-child
2 visits no later than 18 months of age; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are a group of developmental disabilities that
4 often are diagnosed during early childhood and can cause significant social, communication,
5 and behavioral challenges over a lifetime; and

6 WHEREAS, people with ASD have a different way of understanding and reacting to people
7 and events in their world; these differences are caused by the way their brain processes
8 information; and

9 WHEREAS, autistic spectrum disorders affect approximately one out of every 84 children
10 in the State of Georgia, with a total of 601 children identified with ASD in 2008; and

11 WHEREAS, the lifelong effects of autism on a family can be devastating, both financially
12 and emotionally, and the number of those requiring services for autism in Georgia is
13 escalating at the rate of 11.9 per 1,000; and

14 WHEREAS, the Senate recognizes the impact of autism and its effects on the children and
15 families of the State of Georgia as well as the importance of increasing awareness of autism
16 spectrum disorders and the impact of early intervention and treatment.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
18 fully support the education of Georgians to improve the awareness and understanding of
19 autism spectrum disorders and the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders,
20 encourage research and training to enhance the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and
21 request that all physicians, in accordance with guidelines suggested by the American
22 Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Neurology, include autism spectrum
23 disorders screening in all well-child visits no later than 18 months of age.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to distribute an appropriate copy of this resolution to the members of the Reference
26 Committee on Autism.