

Senate Resolution 35

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Carter of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending St. Joseph's/Candler Health System of Savannah, Georgia;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's/Candler Health System is the recipient of the American Hospital
4 Association's prestigious Foster G. McGaw Prize for distinguished excellence in community
5 service, an honor presented to only one deserving hospital system in the nation each year;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's Hospital's (1875) and Candler Hospital's (1804) historic healthcare
8 mission of caring for the citizens of Savannah and coastal Georgia spans nearly 350
9 cumulative years, and is "rooted in God's love" for the purpose of "treating illness and
10 promoting wellness for all people"; and

11 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's/Candler's consistent and committed efforts at community outreach
12 through innovative programs, private and public partnerships, and grassroots solutions have
13 provided a measurable, positive impact on the health and well-being of its citizenry; and

14 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's/Candler's St. Mary's Community Center has stimulated positive
15 change for the citizens of underserved Cuyler-Brownsville by serving as a neighborhood
16 resource hub, harvesting hope through education, job-training, community assistance
17 referrals, food supplies, housing enhancements, health screenings, nutritional counseling, and
18 other valuable safety net resources for the area's impoverished; and

19 WHEREAS, an additional innovation offered by St. Joseph's/Candler provides needed
20 healthcare access to those who are underinsured or uninsured through the volunteer based,
21 medical outreach initiative of The Good Samaritan Clinic; and

22 WHEREAS, The African-American Health Information & Resource Center, endorsed by a
23 former U.S. Surgeon General, was the first such facility of its kind in the nation to bridge the
24 digital divide by providing critical health related services to a specific at-risk population; and

25 WHEREAS, St. Joseph's/Candler's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program has
26 greatly benefited its recipients with free financial tax guidance while positively impacting
27 the local and state economy with more than \$11 million in tax refunds since its inception; and

28 WHEREAS, every measurable health improvement has taken a great deal of time,
29 persistence, and dedication by a workforce loyal to its health mission, possessing a keen
30 awareness of the populations they serve, and a culturally competent approach to skillfully
31 implement such services.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize and commend St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, its coworkers, extensive
34 volunteers, and community partners for their recognition as a national model for community
35 outreach, service, and engagement.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Paul P. Hinchey.