

Senate Resolution 657

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Balfour of the 9th, Millar of the 40th, Shafer of the 48th, Carter of the 1st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 27, 2013, as United Against Childhood Obesity Day at the capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, childhood obesity is a serious public health issue creating a major economic and
4 human capital crisis in Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgians spend more than \$2.4 billion annually on the direct medical cost of
6 obesity and lost productivity from disease, disability, and death; and

7 WHEREAS, obesity related hospitalizations of children ages two through 19 in Georgia
8 increased 338 percent from 1999 to 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, studies indicate that obese children have an 80 percent chance of remaining
10 obese through adulthood, which can lead to low self-esteem and a number of chronic
11 diseases, such as heart disease, asthma, sleep apnea, high blood pressure, cancer, stroke,
12 depression, and Type II diabetes, and death; and

13 WHEREAS, the future of this state depends on the health of Georgia's children and their
14 ability to grow into productive citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children, a nonprofit organization, has convened public,
16 private, and nonprofit sector stakeholders for United Against Childhood Obesity Day at the
17 capitol to build awareness among state lawmakers that childhood obesity is a concern for all
18 of us and requires a diverse but united front to reverse the prevalence of the problem in
19 Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, the problem of childhood obesity can be addressed through collaborative
21 strategies involving early childhood intervention, child care facilities, before-school and
22 after-school programs, daily physical education and physical activity in schools, improved
23 nutrition standards and nutrition education in schools, increased access to recreational

24 activities for children, increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables, community initiatives
25 and public awareness, and other means.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 recognize March 27, 2013, as United Against Childhood Obesity Day at the capitol.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Voices for Georgia's Children.