

House Resolution 871

By: Representatives Oliver of the 82nd, Gardner of the 57th, Randall of the 142nd, Welch of the 110th, Buckner of the 137th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that adult citizens of Georgia strongly consider preparing an advance directive
2 for health care that appoints their health care agent and states their treatment preferences; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a Georgia advance directive for health care is a voluntarily executed, written
5 document that allows an adult to designate a health care agent to make health care decisions
6 when the adult cannot or does not want to make health care decisions for himself or herself
7 and allows the adult to state his or her treatment preferences if he or she has a terminal
8 condition or is in a state of permanent unconsciousness and cannot communicate; and

9 WHEREAS, health care agents must be willing and able to serve, willing to follow the
10 treatment preferences discussed with the person or documented in the person's advance
11 directive for health care, and able to weigh the benefits and burdens of treatments should the
12 person be unsure about his or her treatment preferences; and

13 WHEREAS, adults should also communicate their treatment preferences to their primary
14 care provider and give their physician a copy of their completed advance directive for health
15 care; and

16 WHEREAS, an advance directive for health care can help ease the burden of those who have
17 to make treatment decisions on behalf of others; and

18 WHEREAS, adults who have an advance directive for health care have the freedom to
19 change their appointed health care agent or their treatment preferences, or both, at any time;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia joins other national, state, and community organizations
22 in recognizing April 16, 2013, as the annual Health Care Decisions Day, which has been

23 established to encourage advance care planning for all adults with decision-making capacity;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, health care providers should encourage their patients to complete an advance
26 directive for health care and provide support to those who request assistance.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body encourage Georgians who have serious medical conditions to talk
29 with their doctors about available treatment options, specifically life-sustaining treatments,
30 and the benefits and burdens of such treatments.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body request that all adult
32 Georgians consider what treatments they would want if they were rendered unable to make
33 or communicate their own health care decisions; complete and maintain an advance directive
34 for health care and keep multiple copies in a safe, accessible place; provide a copy of their
35 advance directive for health care for their physician and hospital to include in their medical
36 record; and appoint a health care agent who they trust to carry out their wishes and help make
37 the decisions necessary to preserve their well-being.