

House Resolution 1324

By: Representative Hawkins of the 27th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the importance of oral health as a part of overall health, supporting efforts to
2 improve the oral health of all in Georgia, and recognizing February as Oral Health
3 Awareness Month; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, oral health is a critical component of overall health affecting speech, nutrition,
5 growth and function, social development, employability and productivity, and quality of life;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, dental decay is the most common chronic disease among children - four times
8 more common than asthma, four times more common than early-childhood obesity, and 20
9 times more common than diabetes; and

10 WHEREAS, untreated dental disease is linked to adverse health outcomes associated with
11 diabetes, stroke, heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, preterm and low birth weight deliveries,
12 and, in some instances, death; and

13 WHEREAS, dental decay affects 18 percent of the nation's children aged 2-4, 52 percent of
14 children aged 6-8, and 61 percent of teenagers age 15; and

15 WHEREAS, dental decay is one of the most prevalent health problems in Georgia with
16 56 percent of third grade children having experienced dental decay; and

17 WHEREAS, access to dental care is associated with higher utilization of preventive and
18 restorative dental services; and

19 WHEREAS, Georgia's dental program for children enrolled in Medicaid rose from
20 64.1 percent in 2009 to 69.8 percent in 2012; more can be done for these low-income
21 children who suffer more tooth decay than their higher-income peers; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia residents deserve access to high-quality oral health care.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize that good oral health is critical to good overall health.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members support health policies at the state and
26 local levels that are consistent and promote optimal oral health.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members ensure oral health impact as a
28 consideration in the development of the state health policy.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members support the use of available local, state,
30 and federal resources to monitor oral health status.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members support community oral health initiatives
32 aimed at improving oral health literacy and better health outcomes.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members recognize February as Oral Health
34 Awareness Month to draw attention to ongoing efforts at the local, state, and federal levels
35 to improve the oral health of all.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and members of
38 the press.