

Senate Resolution 84

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Unterman of the 45th, Watson of the 1st, Shafer of the 48th, Hill of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Congress of the United States to enact significant reforms to the nation's federally
2 financed graduate medical education programs and to provide states with additional
3 resources to meet the health workforce needs of the future; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, physicians are the backbone of the nation's health care system, and an adequate
5 supply of trained physicians is critical to meeting the health care needs of Georgia citizens
6 today and in the future; and
- 7 WHEREAS, a consensus exists that the State of Georgia will require more trained physicians
8 than will be available and is projected to rank 50th in the nation in primary care physicians
9 per 100,000 population by 2020; and
- 10 WHEREAS, approximately 75 percent of the public funding to support graduate medical
11 education is provided for by the Medicare program; and
- 12 WHEREAS, passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 resulted in maldistribution of
13 federally supported residency slots, which disproportionately affected growing states,
14 including Georgia; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Georgia's medical schools are currently training more graduates than existing
16 available residency slots; and
- 17 WHEREAS, despite the considerable state effort to expand graduate medical education in
18 Georgia, our state will continue to face shortfalls in the number of physicians needed to meet
19 demand for health care services; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the House Study Committee on Medical Education reports that the current cap
21 on Medicare graduate medical education funding for existing teaching hospitals plays a

22 major role in slowing the expansion of graduate medical education efforts across the country
23 and in Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, action by Congress is necessary to resolve the issue of resident training in a
25 manner that will allow the states and the nation to meet their citizen's health care needs.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 urge the Congress of the United States to pass legislation increasing federal support for
28 graduate medical education.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
30 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to each member of the
31 Georgia congressional delegation, Governor Nathan Deal, the Clerk of the United States
32 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the United States Senate.