

## House Resolution 304

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Beskin of the 54<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Broadrick of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging Georgia's technical schools, colleges, and universities to expand gerontology  
2 and dementia education and training throughout their academic curriculum in order to  
3 address the growing economic, social, and healthcare needs created by an aging population;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, there were 1,528,041 Georgians over the age of 60 years old, according to the  
6 latest U.S. Census. The state's population over the age of 60 years old is expected to increase  
7 by 65.8 percent between 2010 and 2030 per the Georgia Department of Human Services; and

8 WHEREAS, 11.47 percent of Georgia's population over the age of 60 years old was at or  
9 below poverty level per the Georgia Department of Human Services; and

10 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 130,000 Georgians over the age of 65 with Alzheimer's  
11 disease, and the number is projected to reach 190,000 in 2025, an increase of over 46 percent.  
12 There were 2,080 deaths due to the disease in 2010 per the Alzheimer's Association; and

13 WHEREAS, dementia cases have created a challenge for police – 60 percent of those living  
14 with Alzheimer's disease wander away and one-third get lost while driving. The number of  
15 alerts from missing adults with dementia and other infirmities is on the rise per Bill Torpy  
16 and Alexis Stevens in their article, "Georgia's Aging Population: Dementia Cases Pose  
17 Challenge for Police," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Dec. 4, 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2012, 34,067 Georgians lived in nursing homes, including 2.5 percent of  
19 Georgians over the age of 65 years old and 10 percent of the state's population over the age  
20 of 85 years old per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

21 WHEREAS, healthcare jobs are growing more rapidly than employment in any other  
22 industry in Georgia. Along with Utah, Georgia will create more healthcare jobs than any

23 other state between 2010 and 2020. Approximately 149,300 jobs are expected to be added  
24 during this period per the Georgia Department of Labor; and

25 WHEREAS, "the role of public higher education in Georgia is to drive economic  
26 development and produce more educated individuals to contribute to the quality of life in the  
27 state, and [University System of Georgia] institutions are responsible for producing graduates  
28 with the requisite skills and knowledge to ensure Georgia's strong future in the  
29 knowledge-based and global economy" per University System of Georgia, Board of Regents  
30 Policy Manual.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
32 that Georgia's technical schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to expand  
33 gerontology and dementia education and training throughout their academic curriculum in  
34 order to address the growing economic, social, and healthcare needs created by an aging  
35 population.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
38 Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the State Board of the Technical  
39 College System of Georgia.