Senate Resolution 254
By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Unterman of the 45th, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th, Hufstetler of the 52nd and others

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing September 28-October 2, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, leading health and nutrition experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition and good patient health can keep people healthy and out of institutionalized health care facilities, thus reducing healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in the United States; however, it is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as older adults, hospitalized patients, or minority populations, who statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

WHEREAS, the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and to a greater extent than do younger adults, and weight assessment, such as body weight and body mass index, can overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass; and

WHEREAS, the American Nursing Association defines therapeutic nutrition as the administration of food and fluids to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished; and

WHEREAS, access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in restoring lean body mass because it resolves malnutrition challenges, improves clinical outcomes, reduces health care costs, and can keep people in Georgia's communities healthy; and
WHEREAS, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatments have not been incorporated as routine medical treatments across the spectrum of health care.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the members of this body encourage preventive and wellness services as well as the routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutritional treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition and recognize the week of September 28-October 2, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to members of the public and the press.