

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in restoring lean body mass because
21 it resolves malnutrition challenges, improves clinical outcomes, reduces health care costs,
22 and can keep people in Georgia's communities healthy; and

23 WHEREAS, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutritional
24 screening and therapeutic nutrition treatments have not been incorporated as routine medical
25 treatments across the spectrum of health care.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 GEORGIA that the members of this body encourage preventive and wellness services as well
28 as the routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutritional treatment for those who are
29 malnourished or at risk for malnutrition and recognize the week of September 28-October
30 2, 2015, as Malnutrition Awareness Week.

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