

Senate Resolution 339

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Miller of the 49th, Ginn of the 47th and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing September as Dystonia Awareness Month in Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dystonia Awareness Month will raise public awareness and understanding of
3 dystonia, a disorder with numerous manifestations that affects people of all ages, races,
4 gender, and backgrounds, and will also foster understanding of the impact the various forms
5 of dystonia have on those affected and their families; and
- 6 WHEREAS, dystonia is a neurological disorder presenting in various forms, characterized
7 by involuntary muscle contractions causing abnormal, often repetitive, movements or
8 postures; and
- 9 WHEREAS, symptoms may impede the ability to walk as in generalized dystonia or limb
10 dystonia, to control the posture of the head as in cervical dystonia, to speak as in spasmodic
11 dysphonia or oromandibular dystonia, to see as in blepharospasm, or to write as in hand
12 dystonia; and
- 13 WHEREAS, dystonia is commonly misdiagnosed, delaying access to appropriate medical
14 care for those who are affected, and there are limited treatments for dystonia and currently
15 no cure; and
- 16 WHEREAS, trauma like that experienced by military service members can lead to the onset
17 of dystonia; and
- 18 WHEREAS, countless friends, loved ones, spouses, and caregivers must shoulder the
19 physical, emotional, and financial burdens that dystonia causes; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the severity of the symptoms of dystonia and the limited public awareness of
21 the disease cause many patients to be isolated; and

22 WHEREAS, the dystonia community is uniting to cooperate on awareness efforts throughout
23 September, including the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation, DySTonia,
24 Inc., the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia
25 Association, and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association who are dedicated to
26 conducting research to find treatments and a cure for dystonia, fostering public awareness
27 and understanding of the disorder, educating patients and their families about dystonia to
28 improve their treatment and care, and providing support and encouraging people to become
29 advocates, by sponsoring annual patient education conferences, school based educational
30 programs, and local events to raise funds for dystonia research, education, advocacy, and
31 awareness.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize September as Dystonia Awareness Month to elevate public awareness and
34 understanding of this condition across the State of Georgia.

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