

## House Resolution 480

By: Representatives Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>, Quick of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Anderson of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Chandler of the 105<sup>th</sup>, Stephenson of the 90<sup>th</sup>, 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 Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
33 members of the public and the press.