

## House Resolution 858

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 155<sup>th</sup>, Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 14, 2015, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, atrial fibrillation  
4 is a common type of arrhythmia, an abnormal heart rhythm; and

5 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias occur when the electrical activity of the  
6 heart is disorganized, causing an irregular heartbeat that disrupts the flow of blood through  
7 the heart; and

8 WHEREAS, nonvalvular atrial fibrillation, which makes up approximately 95 percent of  
9 atrial fibrillation, is estimated to affect 5.8 million people in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, risk factors for atrial fibrillation include high blood pressure, heart failure,  
11 diabetes, advanced age, hyperthyroidism, and heart disease; and

12 WHEREAS, those with atrial fibrillation have a risk of stroke that is five times greater than  
13 those without, and 15 to 20 percent of all people who have strokes also have atrial  
14 fibrillation; and

15 WHEREAS, stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and in Georgia,  
16 resulting in one person in this country dying from stroke every four minutes and nearly 3,700  
17 Georgians dying from stroke in 2012; and

18 WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability, and stroke survivors are more  
19 likely to become disabled and experience difficulties with daily living and activities; and

20 WHEREAS, according to the National Stroke Association, African Americans are twice as  
21 likely to die from stroke as Caucasians, and the rate of first strokes in African Americans is  
22 almost double that of Caucasians; and

23 WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health, in 2014 the  
24 stroke-related health care cost in Georgia was \$940 million; and

25 WHEREAS, atrial fibrillation is a serious health issue deserving attention from state health  
26 officials; an increase in community awareness of atrial fibrillation and its complications can  
27 improve the likelihood that people with atrial fibrillation will seek the treatment they need  
28 before suffering from devastating consequences.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 this body encourages its members and their constituents to partner with the state health  
31 department, medical communities, and community-based organizations to raise awareness  
32 about the risks posed by atrial fibrillation and stroke, as well as the availability of treatment  
33 options, and recognize May 14, 2015, as Atrial Fibrillation Day at the state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 public and the press.