

Senate Resolution 839

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Epidemiology Section of the Georgia Department of Public Health and
- 2 recognizing March 24, 2016, as World Tuberculosis Day; and for other purposes.
  
- 3 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization released new data in October, 2015, showing
- 4 that tuberculosis is now the world's leading infectious killer; and
  
- 5 WHEREAS, in 2014, 335 new cases of active tuberculosis disease were reported in Georgia,
- 6 making it the state with the fifth highest number of newly reported tuberculosis cases in
- 7 2014; and
  
- 8 WHEREAS, among Georgia's 159 counties, four counties in the Atlanta metropolitan area
- 9 reported the highest number of tuberculosis cases, and those counties, Fulton, DeKalb,
- 10 Gwinnett, and Cobb, accounted for 59 percent of tuberculosis cases in Georgia; and
  
- 11 WHEREAS, among Georgia's 18 Health Districts, the DeKalb Health District had the highest
- 12 tuberculosis case rate in 2014 at 8.3 per 100,000 people, followed by Fulton at 7.6 per
- 13 100,000, and Columbus at 4.8 per 100,000; and
  
- 14 WHEREAS, from 2013 to 2014, the number of tuberculosis cases in homeless people in
- 15 Georgia increased 140 percent from 26 to 62 cases due to a tuberculosis outbreak among
- 16 residents of homeless shelters in Atlanta; and
  
- 17 WHEREAS, on average, \$17,000 public health dollars will be spent treating each case of
- 18 uncomplicated tuberculosis, \$260,000 to treat multidrug resistant tuberculosis, and \$430,000
- 19 to treat extensively drug resistant tuberculosis; and
  
- 20 WHEREAS, tuberculosis is a preventable and curable disease and the Epidemiology Section
- 21 of the Georgia Department of Public Health is working tirelessly to promote prompt
- 22 diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis cases.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
24 commend the Epidemiology Section of the Georgia Department of Public Health for their  
25 invaluable contributions and recognize March 24, 2016, as World Tuberculosis Day.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
27 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Rose Marie  
28 Sales, Director of the Georgia Tuberculosis Program, and Cathalene Teahan, MSN, President  
29 of the Georgia AIDS Coalition.