

Senate Resolution 848

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending public health nurses; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, public health nurses are an integral part of the health care system in every
3 community in Georgia, providing preventive and health promotion services for optimal
4 health to citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, public health nurses empower citizens with knowledge and help link the
6 residents of all 159 counties to needed health care; and

7 WHEREAS, examples of personal preventive services for syphilis and tuberculosis (TB)
8 provided in 2015 by public health nurses include: management, including treatment and
9 follow-up of contacts, of 1,234 cases of primary and secondary syphilis; medication
10 compliance, lab monitoring, education, and contact tracing of 306 cases of TB, 95 percent
11 of all the diagnosed TB cases in Georgia; medication compliance resulting in treatment
12 completion for 98 percent of 306 TB cases; complete evaluation for active TB disease for
13 3,156 contacts to TB cases; TB education and updates to over 500 people, including staff
14 from homeless shelters and correctional facilities; and family planning services for 92,798
15 females, 96 percent of whom received a contraceptive method; and

16 WHEREAS, examples of personal preventive services for HIV provided in 2015 by public
17 health nurses include: screening for HIV infection for 128,080 persons and providing highly
18 active antiretroviral therapy to 8,557 HIV-infected people to improve health outcomes and
19 prevent further disease transmission; and

20 WHEREAS, public health nurses also assist in immunizations and the screening, case
21 management, and treatment of chronic medical conditions, sexually transmitted infections,
22 and cancers; and

23 WHEREAS, public health nurses have a broad knowledge of nursing sciences, public health
24 sciences, emergency preparedness, managing mass-vaccination clinics for influenza vaccine,
25 and they have effective relationships with community partners; and

26 WHEREAS, public health nurses are considered first responders in cases of bio-terrorism or
27 natural disaster events and they will be there to answer questions, immunize, and lead and
28 guide their communities to safety; and

29 WHEREAS, all Georgians owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to public health nurses for the
30 outstanding contribution they make to health care in our state.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend public health nurses and thank them for their invaluable contributions to the health
33 and well-being of all Georgians.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the chief nurse for
36 public health at the Department of Public Health, Carole Jakeway and to Cathalene Teahan.