

Senate Resolution 389

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Unterman of the 45th, Watson of the 1st, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Black of the 8th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Georgia hospital community for its response to Hurricane Matthew in October,
2 2016; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the entire Georgia hospital community has demonstrated its commitment to the
4 safety and well-being of all Georgia residents by its extensive collaborative efforts to prepare
5 for disasters of all kinds; and

6 WHEREAS, in doing so, since 2003, Georgia hospitals, in collaboration with the Georgia
7 Department of Public Health, have created a network of Regional Coordinating Hospitals
8 representing 14 Georgia regions and leading the disaster-relief efforts of each; and

9 WHEREAS, the following Regional Coordinating Hospitals worked together to serve as
10 facilitators and advocates for those hospitals affected by Hurricane Matthew: Hamilton
11 Medical Center (Dalton), Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Gainesville), Floyd Medical
12 Center (Rome), Grady Health System (Atlanta), Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center
13 (Athens), Medical Center, Navicent Health (Macon), AU Medical Center (Augusta),
14 Fairview Park Hospital (Dublin), Midtown Medical Center (Columbus), Memorial
15 University Medical Center (Savannah), Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (Albany), Tift
16 Regional Medical Center (Tifton), Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross (Waycross),
17 WellStar Kennestone Hospital (Marietta), and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Atlanta); and

18 WHEREAS, for more than 15 years, Georgia hospitals have participated in emergency
19 preparedness planning, exercising, and training with health care providers and community
20 emergency preparedness partners throughout the state; and

21 WHEREAS, when Hurricane Matthew slammed Georgia's coast, October 7-8, 2016,
22 hospitals throughout Georgia responded to the event by assisting with the evacuation of
23 patients and residents from coastal counties and accepting hospitalized patients and others
24 in need of care; and

25 WHEREAS, the following Georgia hospitals accepted and cared for evacuated patients from
26 the Georgia coast: AU Medical Center (Augusta), Brooks County Hospital (Quitman),
27 Colquitt Regional Medical Center (Moultrie), Crisp Regional Hospital (Cordele), John D.
28 Archbold Memorial Hospital (Thomasville), Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross,
29 Medical Center, Navicent Health (Macon), Memorial Hospital and Manor (Bainbridge),
30 Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (Albany), South Georgia Medical Center (Valdosta),
31 Trinity Hospital of Augusta (Augusta), University Hospital (Augusta), and WellStar Atlanta
32 Medical Center (Atlanta); and

33 WHEREAS, the following Georgia coastal hospitals either safely evacuated patients to other
34 Georgia hospitals or safely sheltered in place and heroically cared for hundreds of
35 hospitalized patients and families in the face of tremendous uncertainty: Candler Hospital -
36 Savannah (Savannah), Effingham Health System (Springfield), Memorial University Medical
37 Center (Savannah), Southeast Georgia Health System - Brunswick Campus (Brunswick),
38 Southeast Georgia Health System - Camden Campus (St. Marys), St. Joseph's Hospital -
39 Savannah (Savannah); and

40 WHEREAS, after the storm, Georgia hospitals continued to work with government and local
41 officials, Georgia's EMS agencies, and the Georgia Department of Public Health to ensure
42 the safe return of patients and residents to their original location or residence; and

43 WHEREAS, Georgia hospitals demonstrated how their commitment to health care planning
44 and collaboration with health care and community partners can result in the preservation of
45 life in the midst of a disaster; and

46 WHEREAS, none of these life-saving efforts would have been possible without the planning,
47 coordination, and support of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
49 commend the entire Georgia hospital community for its extensive disaster-planning efforts
50 and its heroic work in response to Hurricane Matthew.

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