

House Resolution 1197

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Beverly of the 143rd, Peake of the 141st, Morris of the 26th, Rynders of the 152nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the General Assembly to appropriate \$75,000.00, when available, to fund
2 inflammatory autoimmune related disease research, to address health disparities, and to fund
3 an inflammatory autoimmune related telemedicine pilot in rural Georgia in consultation with
4 the Chronic Disease Prevention Section of the Department of Public Health, the Georgia
5 Council on Lupus Education and Awareness, and inflammatory autoimmune related disease
6 experts; and for other purposes.

7 WHEREAS, inflammatory autoimmune diseases are the third most common category of
8 disease in the United States after cancer and heart disease; they affect approximately from
9 5 to 8 percent of the population or from 14 to 22 million persons; and

10 WHEREAS, inflammatory autoimmune diseases can affect virtually every site in the body,
11 including the endocrine system, connective tissue, gastrointestinal tract, heart, skin, brain,
12 and kidneys; and

13 WHEREAS, at least 15 diseases are known to be the direct result of an inflammatory
14 autoimmune response when the body's immune system turns against itself; and

15 WHEREAS, while women have a greater susceptibility to inflammatory autoimmune
16 diseases, producing a more vigorous immune response and increased antibody production,
17 inflammatory autoimmune diseases that develop in men are often more severe; and

18 WHEREAS, inflammatory autoimmune disease and chronic diseases cost Georgia
19 approximately \$40 billion each year, keep kids out of school, cost Georgia employers, and
20 result in years of life lost; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia has a high burden of chronic diseases; and

22 WHEREAS, more than 5 million cases of a common chronic diseases are reported in any
23 given year and include cancers, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, history of stroke,
24 different forms of inflammatory autoimmune diseases, mental disorders, and pulmonary
25 conditions; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia recognizes the complex nature of inflammatory autoimmune and
27 chronic diseases and the multiple factors that contribute to the burden of such diseases among
28 its population.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 members of this body urge the General Assembly to appropriate \$75,000.00, when available,
31 to fund inflammatory autoimmune related disease research, to address health disparities, and
32 to fund an inflammatory autoimmune related telemedicine pilot in rural Georgia in
33 consultation with the Chronic Disease Prevention Section of the Department of Public
34 Health, the Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness, and inflammatory
35 autoimmune related disease experts.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
38 legislative leaders.