

## House Resolution 662

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, LaHood of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Petrea of the 166<sup>th</sup>, and Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending and recognizing the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for 40  
2 years of advocacy for older Georgians and individuals with disabilities who reside in  
3 long-term care facilities; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program was developed as a pilot project in  
5 1971 during the administration of President Richard Nixon; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the 1978 Amendments to the Older Americans Act changed the pilot program  
7 to a statutory program described as the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Long-Term Care  
9 Ombudsman Program in 1979 to investigate and resolve long-term care facility residents'  
10 complaints, monitor facility conditions, establish a statewide reporting system for  
11 complaints, monitor the development and implementation of federal, state, and local  
12 long-term care policies, and protect the confidentiality of residents' records, complainants'  
13 identities, and ombudsman files; and
- 14 WHEREAS, local Ombudsman Representatives are instrumental in addressing resident  
15 concerns such as discharge and eviction, inadequate care, violation of rights, and quality of  
16 life, assist residents by providing information and assistance to families, facilities, public  
17 officials and the general public; and
- 18 WHEREAS, forty paid local Ombudsman Representatives make quarterly visits to all 371  
19 nursing homes and 2,544 personal care homes and assisted living communities across the  
20 state to be available to the 80,306 residents in those long-term care facilities; and
- 21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates to resolve a  
22 single resident's concerns, advocates to resolve issues for all residents residing in a particular

23 facility, and advocates for public policies, including proposing legislation, commenting on  
24 pending legislation, and facilitating resident participation in the advocacy process; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is celebrating 40 years of  
26 successfully advocating for long-term care residents in nursing homes, personal care homes,  
27 and assisted living communities.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body heartily commend the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for  
30 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Georgia's long-term care facilities and extend  
31 sincere best wishes for the continued success of the program in resolving complaints and  
32 providing advocacy for long-term care residents across the state.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
35 Melanie McNeil, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.