

House Resolution 1046

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 43rd, Trammell of the 132nd, Newton of the 123rd, and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 4, 2020, as Obesity Care Awareness Day in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the disease of obesity is a major public health concern as 40 percent of adults
4 in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity
5 in the United States continuing to grow; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's adult obesity rate is 32.5 percent, up from 20.6 percent in 2000 and
7 10.1 percent in 1990, according to *The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier*
8 *America*, 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by
10 various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors. Those affected by the disease are
11 at higher risk of developing many other health-related conditions, such as type 2 diabetes,
12 high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and some cancers; and

13 WHEREAS, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the
14 public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and families
15 currently affected by the disease have access to and receive comprehensive care and
16 treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by
18 obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to
19 effectively treating the disease; and

20 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard
21 obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total
24 weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting
25 many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of federal and state
26 initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare
27 costs; and

28 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and
29 should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to
30 weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as
31 reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric
32 surgery; and

33 WHEREAS, it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual,
34 corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles to ignite the betterment
35 of obesity care and treatment.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body recognize February 4, 2020, as Obesity Care Awareness Day in
38 Georgia to create awareness of the increasing prevalence of obesity and the devastating
39 effects of obesity on people's lives and to encourage greater action to help decrease the
40 obesity rate in Georgia and the nation.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
43 public and the press.