

Senate Resolution 208

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Thompson of the 14th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Rhett of the 33rd, Strickland of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day at the state capitol in memory
2 of Melanie Travassos and Joey Purpura; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is internationally recognized on August 31 of each
4 year to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and
5 acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends by remembering those who have died or
6 had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2018, 67,367 individuals died from drug overdoses in the United States; in
8 Georgia, over 60 percent of drug overdose deaths involved opioids, which are substances that
9 work on the nervous system of the body or on specific receptors in the brain to reduce the
10 intensity of pain; and

11 WHEREAS, overdose is the leading cause of death for persons under the age of 50, and in
12 a 12 month time frame ending in May 2020, there were over 81,000 drug overdose deaths,
13 with the numbers of deaths accelerating in the months during the pandemic; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the signs of someone struggling with substance
15 abuse as such person will often have personality changes, health problems, relationship
16 problems, difficulty at work, and financial hardships; and

17 WHEREAS, addiction touches people of all backgrounds; despite race, religion, education,
18 or social class, people from all walks of life have suffered from substance abuse or known
19 someone who has; and

20 WHEREAS, the people who suffer from substance abuse are mothers, fathers, sisters,
21 brothers, and friends to many, and it is up to the community to make strides to reduce the
22 stigma associated with substance abuse to bring about education and healing.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
24 acknowledge the importance of education regarding overdoses and substance abuse and
25 recognize August 31, 2021, as Overdose Awareness Day at the state capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
27 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the families of
28 Melanie Travassos and Joey Purpura as well as to the public and the press.