

## House Resolution 8

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, and Jackson of the 68<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the creation of a State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and  
2 Screenings in Communities of Color; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, disparities in health outcomes are increasingly costly to the state, but are in  
4 large part preventable; and

5 WHEREAS, people with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory  
6 disease, blood disease, lupus, HIV, and kidney disease, require integrated and coordinated  
7 healthcare services, including diagnosis, treatment, management, and medication, from a  
8 variety of providers; and

9 WHEREAS, patients with these and other chronic diseases and their families, caregivers, and  
10 employers and the health system experience a disproportionately high economic, clinical, and  
11 social burden; and

12 WHEREAS, both the maintenance of overall well-being and management of underlying  
13 health conditions are crucial for individuals in high-risk communities; and

14 WHEREAS, identifying barriers to obtaining chronic disease information and screenings is  
15 a first step toward breaking down these barriers; and

16 WHEREAS, patients with these and other chronic diseases, particularly patients from  
17 minority populations, were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are likely to be  
18 disproportionately impacted by any future health crises; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledges  
20 that social and economic differences often create health differences in communities of color,  
21 and that public health emergencies can isolate communities of color from necessary  
22 resources; and

23 WHEREAS, the CDC acknowledges that COVID-19 death rates among  
24 black/African-American persons and Hispanic/Latino persons were substantially higher than  
25 the death rate among other persons; and

26 WHEREAS, patients in rural communities in this state are particularly challenged in  
27 receiving adequate and appropriate health information and screenings; and

28 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to create a workgroup to increase chronic disease  
29 information and screenings in communities of color.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body support:

32 (1) The creation of a State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and  
33 Screenings in Communities of Color (the Workgroup);

- 34 (2) That the Workgroup be created and overseen by the State Office of Rural Health  
35 within the Department of Community Health and the Office of Minority Health within  
36 the Department of Public Health;
- 37 (3) That the Workgroup shall focus on the development of projects to increase chronic  
38 disease information and screenings in communities of color, including the use of  
39 telehealth as a means to improve both;
- 40 (4) That the Workgroup consider the development of a program for delivery of chronic  
41 disease information, including screening information, concurrent with administration of  
42 vaccinations;
- 43 (5) That the Workgroup shall invite, to the extent possible, individuals representing all  
44 demographics of Georgia, and shall include invitations of participation to, at a minimum,  
45 the following members (a member can fill more than one role):
- 46 (A) A representative of a patient organization that addresses chronic disease;
  - 47 (B) A representative from the Medical Association of Georgia;
  - 48 (C) A nurse educator;
  - 49 (D) A representative of the Division of Medical Assistance Plans within the  
50 Department of Community Health;
  - 51 (E) A representative from a faith based organization;
  - 52 (F) A representative of a healthcare company;
  - 53 (G) A representative from a federally qualified health center;
  - 54 (H) A representative from the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention  
55 and Health Promotion;
  - 56 (I) A state legislator from a district that has a significant population of minority  
57 constituents;
  - 58 (J) A representative of a local government consisting of a rural population;
  - 59 (K) A representative of a local government consisting of an urban population; and
  - 60 (L) A representative of a Georgia Historically Black College or University; and

61 (6) That the Workgroup report to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the  
62 Governor on the progress of the Workgroup within nine months of adoption of this  
63 resolution.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
65 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
66 State Office of Rural Health within the Department of Community Health and the Office of  
67 Minority Health within the Department of Public Health.