

Senate Resolution 403

By: Senators Jackson of the 41st, Goodman of the 8th, Merritt of the 9th, Mangham of the 55th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Valerie Taylor; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Valerie Taylor has devoted herself to advocating for cancer patients and their
3 families, drawing upon her own courageous battles with blood cancer and breast cancer to
4 inspire and empower others in the relentless fight for equitable healthcare access and
5 life-saving treatments; and

6 WHEREAS, Valerie's advocacy efforts began in earnest following her own diagnosis of
7 acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in April 2018. After dedicating decades of her life as a nurse,
8 she was released from her job while caring for her mother, who suffered from advanced
9 dementia. As a result, she fell into Georgia's coverage gap and was left without the critical
10 healthcare coverage she needed—unable to access the life-saving treatments essential for her
11 survival. Throughout this challenging journey, her son, Teferi, has been a constant source of
12 strength, supporting her both emotionally and in her advocacy efforts; and

13 WHEREAS, despite facing her own battles with cancer, including a diagnosis of breast
14 cancer in 2023, Valerie has been a tireless and passionate advocate, helping to raise
15 awareness about the crucial need to fully close the Medicaid coverage gap to protect patients

16 like her who are at risk of not being able to access life-saving treatments due to financial
17 barriers; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2022, Valerie was honored with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)
19 Advocacy Champion of the Year award, a testament to her selfless dedication to advancing
20 the LLS mission and her commitment to policy change that benefits the millions of
21 Americans without access to Medicaid; and

22 WHEREAS, through her relentless advocacy, including engaging in virtual meetings with
23 lawmakers, her powerful story featured in The Leukemia & Lymphoma's annual report,
24 having her story featured in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and her pivotal role in creating
25 a compelling Medicaid Coverage Gap video, Valerie has amplified the voices of those in
26 need, becoming a driving force in advancing the legislative agenda for improved and
27 equitable access to care; and

28 WHEREAS, Valerie has also been an active member of LLS's Team in Training program,
29 raising nearly \$5,000 through a personal fundraiser and completing a 35-mile ride in
30 America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride in Lake Tahoe, further supporting LLS's efforts to fund
31 research and provide hope to patients; and

32 WHEREAS, Valerie continues to advocate for safer, more accessible treatments for all
33 cancer patients and remains unwavering in her commitment to closing the healthcare
34 coverage gap, ensuring that every Georgian has access to the life-saving care they need and
35 deserve; and

36 WHEREAS, Valerie's unwavering courage and determination are an inspiration to all, and
37 her work as The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Advocacy Leader for Georgia represents

38 the heart of what it means to be a compassionate and dedicated advocate for cancer patients
39 and their families; and

40 WHEREAS, Valerie's efforts have made a significant impact on improving the lives of
41 cancer patients and will continue to be felt for years to come as her story and advocacy lead
42 to meaningful policy changes and inspire others to stand up for those in need.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 commend Valerie Taylor for her outstanding contributions to the Leukemia & Lymphoma
45 Society and to the broader cancer community, recognizing her as a fierce advocate, a
46 survivor, and a hero who has made a lasting impact in the fight for better healthcare access
47 and treatments for blood cancer patients in Georgia and across the country.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Valerie Taylor.