

House Resolution 1654

By: Representatives Flournoy of the 74th, Au of the 50th, Cannon of the 58th, Roberts of the 52nd, and Herring of the 145th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging Georgia's medical schools to prioritize patient-centered care; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgia continues to face one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the
3 United States, with preventable pregnancy-related deaths linked to gaps in access, quality,
4 communication, and continuity of care; and
- 5 WHEREAS, improving access to timely, continuous, and high-quality maternal health care
6 during pregnancy and throughout the postpartum period is recognized as a critical strategy
7 for reducing severe maternal complications and preventing maternal deaths; and
- 8 WHEREAS, patient-centered care is defined as care that places an individual's specific health
9 needs, preferences, values, and desired outcomes at the center of clinical decision making
10 and quality measurement; and
- 11 WHEREAS, strengthening patient-centered maternity care practices that prioritize
12 communication, access to supportive services, continuity of care, and responsiveness to
13 patient concerns can help reduce preventable pregnancy-related deaths across Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, patient-centered care requires collaborative decision making, full and timely
15 information sharing, respect for patients' experience and background, and inclusion of
16 patients and families as active members of the care team; and

17 WHEREAS, empathy and effective communication are foundational components of
18 patient-centered care and are associated with improved patient satisfaction, stronger
19 treatment adherence, better clinical outcomes, and improved trust in the health care system;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, patient-centered, respectful maternity care applies these established health care
22 quality principles specifically to pregnancy and childbirth by promoting trust, informed
23 choice, protection of patient; and

24 WHEREAS, the establishment of the new University of Georgia School of Medicine
25 represents a historic investment in expanding Georgia's physician workforce and improving
26 access to care, particularly in underserved and rural communities; and

27 WHEREAS, aligning medical education with patient-centered care standards ensures that the
28 next generation of Georgia physicians is trained not only in clinical excellence but also in
29 communication, trust-building, informed consent, and culturally responsive care, thereby
30 advancing health system quality and public health outcomes statewide.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body urge all Georgia's medical schools to teach patient-centered care
33 that includes shared decision making, informed consent, and transparent communication;
34 incorporates respectful maternity care practices, communication training, and clinical
35 training; and promotes evidence-based education on bias and accountability mechanisms

36 within clinical training and practice settings to reduce disparities in treatment and outcomes
37 and to strengthen trust between patients and providers.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage licensed health care
39 facilities and medical education institutions across Georgia to implement trauma-informed
40 training and communication standards for all clinical and nonclinical personnel who interact
41 with patients.

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