

House Resolution 1700

By: Representatives Lim of the 98th, Lupton of the 83rd, Henderson of the 113th, Au of the 50th, and Mathiak of the 74th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 25, 2024, as World Thyroid Day in honor of Georgians who experience
2 thyroid conditions, including Hashimoto's thyroiditis; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Hashimoto's thyroiditis affects approximately 5 percent of the United States'
4 population, and it more frequently affects women than men by a factor of 10 due to the
5 effects of different hormones; and

6 WHEREAS, Hashimoto's occurs when the immune system creates antibodies that attack the
7 thyroid gland. This process inhibits the thyroid's ability to produce natural thyroid hormones
8 and causes lower than normal levels of thyroid hormone in the body; and

9 WHEREAS, every cell in the human body has a receptor for thyroid hormone. The thyroid
10 gland is stimulated by the pituitary gland to produce several hormones, the most significant
11 being T4. T4 is then converted by the body into T3, the active thyroid hormone. T3 must be
12 received by the cells in the human body for the cells to function properly. If there is a
13 deficient amount of T3 circulating in the body and/or the cells cannot receive T3, the body
14 cannot function normally and systems break down. Low levels of thyroid hormone cause the
15 patient to become hypothyroid; and

16 WHEREAS, every patient with Hashimoto's thyroiditis must take thyroid replacement
17 therapy to survive. Since the thyroid gland is unable to produce thyroid hormone in those
18 with Hashimoto's, they must take thyroid hormone orally in medications. Unfortunately, this
19 treatment is not effective for all people; and

20 WHEREAS, not every Hashimoto's patient responds well to thyroid replacement therapy.
21 Those who respond well can take the hormone medication and function with no problem. For
22 those who do not respond well, this condition becomes disabling. These patients can
23 experience severe health consequences that can affect their quality of life. It is a disability
24 that should be considered by employers and school administrators; and

25 WHEREAS, there are several biological steps between the thyroid being stimulated by the
26 pituitary gland to produce T4 and the necessary thyroid hormone getting into the cells. If one
27 of those processes does not work correctly, then the cells in the body cannot function
28 properly, leaving the body without enough thyroid hormone. The body becomes hypothyroid,
29 which can result in several negative outcomes; and

30 WHEREAS, symptoms of hypothyroidism caused by Hashimoto's include but are not limited
31 to exhaustion, lethargy, tightness in the throat, headaches and migraines, gastrointestinal
32 issues, brain fog, inability to concentrate, forgetfulness, hypersomnia (sleeping too much),
33 difficulty in going to sleep and waking up, hair loss and early appearance of gray hairs,
34 muscle/joint aches and pains, mental health issues (depression, anxiety), weight gain,
35 intolerance to cold temperatures, facial swelling, and dry skin; and

36 WHEREAS, inadequately treated Hashimoto's and undiagnosed hypothyroid symptoms can
37 lead to other related endocrine disorders such as adrenal insufficiency and insulin resistance.

38 As time goes on without enough thyroid hormone, a person can develop other disorders such
39 as fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and more; and

40 WHEREAS, there is a need to explore alternative treatments for the hypothyroidism caused
41 by Hashimoto's, including but not limited to medical cannabis; and

42 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia should recognize Hashimoto's thyroiditis as a debilitating
43 disease that can be difficult to control in some patients. Awareness of this condition needs
44 to improve so accommodations can be provided to those afflicted with it in school and work
45 settings.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
47 the members of this body recognize May 25, 2024, as World Thyroid Day in honor of
48 Georgians who experience thyroid conditions, including Hashimoto's thyroiditis.

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