

## House Resolution 850

By: Representatives Evans of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Barnes of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Newton of the 127<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task  
2 Force for Global Health, headquartered in Decatur, Georgia, for their commitment to  
3 eliminating viral hepatitis as a health threat for Georgians, the United States, and globally;  
4 and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination was founded in July, 2019, to  
6 catalyze progress toward the achievement of viral hepatitis elimination globally as a program  
7 of the Task Force for Global Health; and

8 WHEREAS, the Task Force for Global Health is celebrating 40 years of commitment to  
9 better health this year; and

10 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination extends the leadership of the  
11 Task Force for Global Health in global disease elimination and eradication, assuring all  
12 persons have opportunities for improved health and resulting in large benefits in lives saved  
13 and reduced costs in health care; and

14 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global  
15 Health is rising to the challenge of reducing deaths from viral hepatitis, which now ranks as

16 the sixth leading cause of mortality globally, overtaking deaths due to HIV, malaria, and  
17 tuberculosis and in 2020 alone causing the deaths of over 20,000 people in the United States,  
18 including more than 350 Georgians; and

19 WHEREAS, approximately 354 million people are living with viral hepatitis globally and  
20 an estimated 3 million new chronic infections occur annually; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2016 and in 2022, the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted  
22 resolutions endorsing the World Health Organization's (WHO) goals for eliminating viral  
23 hepatitis as a health threat by preventing transmission through broad coverage with  
24 vaccinations and injection safety programs in health care and communities and preventing  
25 mortality through equitable access to reliable tests followed by treatments with safe,  
26 affordable medicines that cure hepatitis infections; and

27 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination is actively engaged to achieve  
28 WHO elimination goals and avert over 7 million deaths by the end of this decade; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has joined the global effort to  
30 eliminate viral hepatitis as a health threat by establishing a goal of state-wide elimination by  
31 2030; and

32 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination is working towards the  
33 acceleration of hepatitis B and C elimination programs through advocacy, technical  
34 assistance, research, and knowledge generation and dissemination among partners united in  
35 a community of practice; and

36 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination Director Dr. John Ward,  
37 Associate Director Lindsey Hiebert, the Task Force for Global Health CEO Dr. Patrick  
38 O'Carroll, and the Center for Vaccine Equity Director Mark McKinlay, as well as all of their  
39 colleagues, are exemplary Georgians in their dedication and commitment to disease  
40 elimination; and

41 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination and the Task Force for Global  
42 Health place Georgia as a leader in disease elimination, contributing to the health and  
43 well-being of people in Georgia, the United States, and around the world.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
45 the members of this body recognize and commend the Coalition for Global Hepatitis  
46 Elimination and the Task Force for Global Health upon the occasion of the 40th anniversary  
47 of the founding of the Task Force for Global Health and express their sincere gratitude and  
48 hope for continued success.

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 Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination and the Task Force for Global Health.