

## Senate Resolution 160

By: Senators Hufstetler of the 52nd, Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Tillery of the 19th, Brass of the 28th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of March 13-19, 2023, as Brain Awareness Week in Georgia; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, since it first began in 1996, Brain Awareness Week has evolved into a global  
4 education initiative to help raise awareness around research and advancements into  
5 treatments, preventions and even cures for brain disorders, including stroke; and

6 WHEREAS, a stroke, also referred to as a "brain attack," is the interruption of blood flow  
7 to an area of the brain, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients; and

8 WHEREAS, the most severe type of stroke is known as emergent large vessel occlusion  
9 (ELVO), when a clot prevents the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain and kills up to two  
10 million brain cells per minute until it is removed; and

11 WHEREAS, someone dies from stroke every four minutes in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke every year,  
13 resulting in \$46 billion in costs associated with health services, rehabilitation, long-term care,  
14 and missed days of work; and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia is located within America's "Stroke Belt" and had the 12th highest  
16 stroke death rate in the nation in 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, 4,821 Georgians died of stroke in 2020, making it the state's fourth-leading  
18 cause of death; and

19 WHEREAS, revolutionary advancements in medical innovation have made it possible to  
20 save more lives and prevent long-term disability among patients afflicted with stroke such  
21 as ELVO; and

22 WHEREAS, Level 1 stroke centers located throughout Georgia are staffed with highly  
23 trained neurointerventional care teams who can perform a minimally invasive procedure  
24 known as mechanical thrombectomy, through which the clot responsible for causing a stroke  
25 is quickly located and removed, restoring blood flow to the brain; and

26 WHEREAS, mechanical thrombectomy involves the use of catheters to quickly reopen  
27 blocked arteries in the brain in as little as 20 minutes and has been proven to be highly  
28 effective at treating ischemic strokes in patients who have an ELVO; and

29 WHEREAS, for every minute saved in getting a severe stroke patient the most appropriate  
30 care he or she needs, there is \$1,000 in savings for medical costs; and

31 WHEREAS, there remains a gap between advanced treatment for stroke patients and existing  
32 protocols which inadvertently prevent timely access to lifesaving care; and

33 WHEREAS, adopting a triage and transport system for critical stroke patients based on the  
34 trauma model, in which critically injured patients are immediately transported to Level 1

35 trauma centers, will ensure they are transported directly to Level 1 stroke centers, which are  
36 best-equipped to provide lifesaving care; and

37 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the citizens of this state recognize Brain Awareness  
38 Week and acknowledge the commendable work of organizations such as the Society of  
39 NeuroInterventional Surgery that are dedicated to improving systems of care for stroke  
40 patients to help save lives and prevent disability.

41 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
42 recognize the week of March 13-19, 2023, as Brain Awareness Week in Georgia.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
44 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Society of  
45 NeuroInterventional Surgery.