

## Senate Resolution 657

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Robertson of the 29th, Halpern of the 39th, Payne of the 54th and Harrell of the 40th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 25th Anniversary of Peer Support and the Associated Certified Peer  
2 Specialists Workforce; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental  
4 Disabilities, then known as the Department of Human Resources, designed and developed  
5 the first state-wide initiative to implement Peer Support in 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, since that time, Georgia's Peer Support service has become the model for nearly  
7 every state in the union to adopt Peer Support as a service and the use of certified Peer  
8 Specialists as an integral part of the behavioral health workforce and has been the model for  
9 multiple international countries' adoption of Peer Support; and

10 WHEREAS, the service and workforce have been strengthened and enhanced by the  
11 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' partnerships with the lived  
12 experience leadership of its certifying partners: the Georgia Mental Health Consumer  
13 Network, the Georgia Council for Recovery, and the Georgia Parent Support Network; and

14 WHEREAS, Certified Peer Specialists bring a unique lived lens to the behavioral health  
15 service sector and daily promote recovery and change lives in a way that no other workforce  
16 can accomplish; and

17 WHEREAS, numerous state employees, advocates, and other individuals have worked  
18 tirelessly to champion this life-changing program; and, on the 25th Anniversary of the launch  
19 of Peer Support in Georgia, the following individuals should be honored: Larry Fricks,  
20 Carroll Benson, Pat Clifford (posthumously), Wendy Tiegreen, Mark Trail, Sherry Jenkins  
21 Tucker (posthumously), Neil Campbell, Sue Smith, and Ike Powell.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
23 recognize the 25th Anniversary of the launch of Peer Support in Georgia and applaud  
24 Georgia's pioneering leadership in the creation, development, and sustaining of Peer Support  
25 service innovation and the building of a state, national, and international workforce of  
26 Certified Peer Specialists.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
28 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to for distribution to  
29 the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.