

Senate Resolution 676

By: Senator Watson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 4, 2020, as Obesity Care Awareness Day in Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the disease of obesity is a major public health concern as 40 percent of adults
4 in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity
5 in the United States continuing to grow; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's adult obesity rate is 32.5 percent, up from 20.6 percent in 2000 and
7 10.1 percent in 1990, according to *The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier*
8 *America, 2019*; and

9 WHEREAS, experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by
10 various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors. Those affected by the disease are
11 at higher risk of developing many other health-related conditions such as Type 2 diabetes,
12 high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and some cancers; and

13 WHEREAS, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the
14 public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and families
15 currently affected by the disease have access to and receive comprehensive care and
16 treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by
18 obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to
19 effectively treating the disease; and

20 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard
21 obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total
24 weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting
25 many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of federal and state
26 initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare
27 costs; and

28 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and
29 should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to
30 weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as
31 reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric
32 surgery; and

33 WHEREAS, it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual,
34 corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles, to ignite the betterment
35 of obesity care and treatment.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 recognize February 4, 2020, as Obesity Care Awareness Day in Georgia to create awareness
38 of the increasing prevalence of obesity and the devastating effects of obesity on people's lives
39 and to encourage greater action to help decrease the obesity rate in Georgia and in the nation.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
42 press.