

House Resolution 1224

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Smith of the 70th, Dempsey of the 13th, Hutchinson of the 107th, and Hagan of the 156th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia State Board of Medical Examiners and the Georgia Board of Nursing to
2 disseminate information concerning bone marrow donations to healthcare providers for the
3 purpose of enhancing public awareness of bone marrow donations; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, since 1987, when the United States Congress authorized the establishment of
5 a national registry of volunteer bone marrow donors, the National Marrow Donor Program,
6 now publicly known as Be The Match, has facilitated more than 74,000 marrow and
7 umbilical cord blood transplants; and

8 WHEREAS, Be The Match states that the number of transplants facilitated through the
9 national Be The Match Registry represents only a fraction of the people who can benefit; and

10 WHEREAS, one of the leading hurdles cited in a report by the United States Government
11 Accountability Office is locating a suitably matched, unrelated donor, a process that is often
12 difficult, time-consuming, and costly; and

13 WHEREAS, seventy percent of patients do not have a donor in their family and rely upon
14 the national registry to find a match; and

15 WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance the understanding of the importance of bone marrow
16 donation and to encourage residents of Georgia to participate in bone marrow donation
17 drives; and

18 WHEREAS, the bone marrow registration process is simple as it takes only a few minutes
19 and requires a cheek swab; and

20 WHEREAS, a bone marrow transplant may be the best treatment option or the only potential
21 for a cure for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and many other
22 diseases; and

23 WHEREAS, as the science of transplantation continues to advance, new diseases are being
24 treated with bone marrow transplants; and

25 WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1263.2 established the Georgia Organ Transplant Assistance Program
26 within the Office of the Secretary of the Georgia Department of Health; and

27 WHEREAS, through the program, the department educates residents of Georgia about the
28 need for bone marrow donors; the procedures required to become registered as a potential
29 bone marrow donor, including the procedures for determining the person's tissue type; and
30 the medical procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow or other sources of
31 blood stem cells and the attendant risks of the procedure; and

32 WHEREAS, the department is also directed to make special efforts to educate and recruit
33 minority populations to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors; and

34 WHEREAS, currently, no provision requires that the Georgia State Board of Medical
35 Examiners and the Georgia Board of Nursing disseminate information concerning bone
36 marrow donations to healthcare providers.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body urge the Georgia State Board of Medical Examiners and the
39 Georgia Board of Nursing to disseminate information concerning bone marrow donations to
40 healthcare providers for the purpose of enhancing public awareness of bone marrow
41 donations.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information the Georgia State Board of Medical
43 Examiners and the Georgia Board of Nursing shall provide concerning bone marrow
44 donations to healthcare providers licensed by the boards, for dissemination to patients, shall
45 include the following: the need for bone marrow donations, patient populations that would
46 benefit from bone marrow donations, how to join the national bone marrow registry, and how
47 to acquire a free buccal swab kit from the national bone marrow registry.

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