

House Resolution 368

By: Representatives Evans of the 89th, Clark of the 108th, Barnes of the 86th, Au of the 50th, Hutchinson of the 106th, 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 Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination extends the leadership of the
9 Task Force for Global Health in global disease elimination and eradication, assuring all
10 persons have opportunities for improved health and resulting in large benefits in lives saved
11 and reduced costs in health care; and

12 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global
13 Health is rising to the challenge of reducing deaths from viral hepatitis, which now ranks as
14 the sixth leading cause of mortality globally, overtaking deaths due to HIV, malaria, and
15 tuberculosis and in 2020 alone causing the deaths of over 20,000 people in the United States,
16 including more than 350 Georgians; and

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has joined the global effort to
28 eliminate viral hepatitis as a health threat by establishing a goal of statewide elimination by
29 2030; and

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

34 WHEREAS, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination Director Dr. John Ward,
35 Associate Director Lindsey Hiebert, the Task Force for Global Health Director Dr. Patrick
36 O'Carroll, and the Center for Vaccine Equity Director Mark McKinlay, as well as all of their

37 colleagues, are exemplary Georgians in their dedication and commitment to disease
38 elimination; and

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

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize and commend the Coalition for Global Hepatitis
44 Elimination and the Task Force for Global Health upon the occasion of the North American
45 Hepatitis Elimination Summit and express their sincere gratitude and hope for continued
46 success.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination and the Task Force for Global Health.