

House Resolution 644

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Hutchinson of the 107th, Sharper of the 177th, Bennett of the 94th, Jones of the 53rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 2022 as Bone Health and Osteoporosis Awareness Month in the State of
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and
4 studies suggest that approximately one in two women and up to one in four men age 50 and
5 older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffer approximately 2.1
7 million osteoporotic fractures a year, and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible
8 for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, or breast cancer; and

9 WHEREAS, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries
10 was \$57 billion in 2018, and as the population ages, this cost is expected to grow to over \$95
11 billion in 2040 without reforms; and

12 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 48,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 56,400 osteoporotic
13 fractures in 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, the cost for those Georgians who suffered not just an initial fracture but also a
15 subsequent fracture was an estimated at over \$131 million; and

16 WHEREAS, osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging.
17 Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis.
18 Care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach our peak bone mass by
19 early adulthood; and

20 WHEREAS, optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a
21 balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening
22 exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and

23 WHEREAS, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one cannot feel their bones
24 weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone health
25 screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures that lead to hospitalization and
26 nursing home stays; and

27 WHEREAS, cost effective post-fracture care that improves care coordination has been
28 demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet it is not widely
29 available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and

30 WHEREAS, it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among
31 the public, health professionals, and policy makers.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize May 2022 as Bone Health and Osteoporosis Awareness
34 Month in the State of Georgia; commend the ideals, goals, and activities of the National

35 Bone Health and Osteoporosis Month in May; and encourage observation of appropriate
36 good health programs and activities with respect to promoting good bone health as well as
37 preventing and controlling osteoporosis.

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