

## House Resolution 647

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup>, Williamson of the 115<sup>th</sup>, Newton of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, and Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia Department of Community Health to apply for federal approval to allow  
2 institutions for mental diseases (IMDs) in this state to qualify for Medicaid reimbursement;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, state-run crisis stabilization units (CSUs) are a valuable resource in  
5 communities for individuals in need of immediate mental health services; and

6 WHEREAS, crisis stabilization units are intended to be the safety net providers to provide  
7 care for indigent populations and over 97 percent of CSU beds are utilized by uninsured  
8 clients according to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Medicaid or payors of last resort typically cover the remaining 3 percent of bed  
11 capacity, although private insurers provide coverage to some clients; demand for bed space  
12 often exceeds capacity; and

13 WHEREAS, federal law prohibits states from using Medicaid funds to pay for care in private  
14 institutions for mental diseases, resulting in many private care facilities not being able to

15 accept patients who use Medicaid, even though private partners have available bed capacity;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, there are some pathways for the Georgia managed care vendors to pay for this  
18 type of service and utilize private facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, a state may request an IMD waiver from the federal government in order to  
20 used Medicaid funds in private settings; and

21 WHEREAS, if Georgia was granted a waiver, CSUs would be more capable of fulfilling their  
22 role as the public safety net by placing their priority on uninsured patients.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 the members of this body urge the Georgia Department of Community Health to apply for  
25 federal approval to allow institutions for mental diseases in this state to qualify for Medicaid  
26 reimbursement.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of  
29 Community Health.