

## House Resolution 745

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Clark of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Jones of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the United States Congress to provide for the continuation of Ryan White  
2 CARE Act funding at levels appropriate to meet the needs of the citizens of the State of  
3 Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Ryan White was a hemophiliac who was diagnosed with AIDS on  
5 December 17, 1984, at the age of 13; and

6 WHEREAS, Ryan White was diagnosed with AIDS at a time when there was no education  
7 and very little information about HIV or AIDS; and

8 WHEREAS, Ryan White died on April 8, 1990, at the age of 18, just months before the  
9 United States Congress passed AIDS legislation which bears his name, the Ryan White  
10 Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act; and

11 WHEREAS, as of December 31, 2012, the Department of Public Health reported that the  
12 total number of persons living in Georgia with HIV and AIDS was 50,436, and of that  
13 number, 27,218 persons, or 55 percent, had been diagnosed with AIDS and the remaining  
14 23,218 persons, or 45 percent, had been diagnosed with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, with approximately 3,000 new HIV diagnoses per year, Georgia currently ranks  
17 fifth in the United States regarding the rate of new HIV infections; and

18 WHEREAS, breakthrough scientific research has shown that people living with HIV who  
19 are adherent to their prescribed antiretroviral treatment are up to 96 percent less infectious  
20 to others; and

21 WHEREAS, public health research has demonstrated that the key to reversing HIV in this  
22 state's communities is to eliminate the gaps in the HIV care continuum, which begins with

23 knowledge of HIV status, linkage to care, and rendering individuals noninfectious by keeping  
24 them linked to care and treatment; and

25 WHEREAS, the Ryan White CARE Act has provided funding over the years to assist  
26 Georgia in meeting the growing health care and social services needs of the people living  
27 with HIV and AIDS, including primary health care, hospice, substance abuse counseling,  
28 HIV, AIDS, and STD testing services, linkage and retention services to keep people with  
29 HIV and AIDS in care, and medication adherence services; and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia is experiencing a reduction of its ability to respond to HIV and AIDS  
31 due to the rising number of persons living with HIV infection and the leveling of the  
32 appropriation of federal funds associated with the Ryan White CARE Act; and

33 WHEREAS, Georgia's ability to respond to HIV and AIDS will be seriously compromised  
34 if funds related to the Ryan White CARE Act are reduced in upcoming federal government  
35 budgets.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body encourage the United States Congress to provide for the  
38 continuation of Ryan White CARE Act funding at levels appropriate to meet the health care  
39 needs of the citizens of the State of Georgia in general and those citizens diagnosed with HIV  
40 and AIDS.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
42 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
43 Georgia delegation to the United States House of Representatives and United States Senators  
44 Johnny Isakson and David Perdue.