

House Resolution 809

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63rd, Mitchell of the 88th, Beverly of the 143rd, Davis of the 87th, and Scott of the 76th

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the creation of a State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and
2 Screenings in Communities of Color; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, disparities in health outcomes are increasingly costly to the state, financially
4 and socially, but are in large part preventable; and

5 WHEREAS, people with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory
6 disease, blood disease, lupus, HIV, and kidney disease, require seamless health care from
7 provider to treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, patients with these and other chronic diseases and their families, caregivers, and
9 employers and the health system have a disproportionately high economic, clinical, and
10 social burden; and

11 WHEREAS, the overall well-being and management of underlying health conditions is
12 crucial for high-risk communities; and

13 WHEREAS, identifying barriers to obtaining chronic disease information and screenings is
14 a first step toward breaking these barriers; and

15 WHEREAS, patients with these and other chronic diseases, particularly patients from
16 minority populations, have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are likely
17 to be disproportionately impacted by future health crises; and

18 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledges
19 that social and economic differences often create health differences in communities of color,
20 and that public health emergencies can isolate communities of color from necessary
21 resources; and

22 WHEREAS, the CDC acknowledges that COVID-19 death rates among
23 black/African-American persons and Hispanic/Latino persons have been substantially higher
24 than that of other persons; and

25 WHEREAS, patients in rural communities in this state are particularly challenged in
26 receiving adequate and appropriate health information and screenings; and

27 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to create a workgroup to increase chronic disease
28 information and screenings in communities of color.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body support:

- 31 (1) The creation of a State Workgroup to Increase Chronic Disease Information and
32 Screenings in Communities of Color (the Workgroup);
- 33 (2) That the Workgroup be created and overseen by the State Office of Rural Health
34 within the Department of Community Health;

- 35 (3) That the Workgroup shall focus on the development of projects to increase chronic
36 disease information and screenings in communities of color, including the use of
37 telehealth as a means to improve both;
- 38 (4) That the Workgroup consider the development of a program for delivery of chronic
39 disease information, including screening information, concurrent with administration of
40 vaccinations;
- 41 (5) That the Workgroup shall invite, to the extent possible, individuals representing all
42 demographics of Georgia, and shall include invitations of participation to, at a minimum,
43 the following members (a member can fill more than one role):
- 44 (A) A representative of a patient organization that addresses chronic disease;
 - 45 (B) A representative from the Medical Association of Georgia;
 - 46 (C) A nurse educator;
 - 47 (D) A representative of the Division of Medical Assistance of the Department of
48 Community Health;
 - 49 (E) A representative from a faith based organization;
 - 50 (F) A representative of a health care company;
 - 51 (G) A representative from a federally qualified health center;
 - 52 (H) A representative from the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
53 and Health Promotion;
 - 54 (I) A state legislator from a district that has a significant population of minority
55 constituents;
 - 56 (J) A representative of a local government consisting of a rural population;
 - 57 (K) A representative of a local government consisting of an urban population; and
 - 58 (L) A representative of a Georgia Historically Black College or University; and
- 59 (6) That the Workgroup report to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the
60 Governor on the progress of the Workgroup within nine months of adoption of this
61 resolution.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
63 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
64 State Office of Rural Health within the Department of Community Health.