

House Resolution 915

By: Representatives Nimmer of the 178th, Shaw of the 176th, LaRiccia of the 169th, Corbett of the 174th, and Spencer of the 180th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing telehealth as an important tool to improving access to health care in Georgia;
- 2 and for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, telehealth is the use of electronic information and technologies, including videoconferencing, the Internet, image storage and forwarding, streaming media, and wireless communications, to support or provide clinical treatment, consultation recommendations, and education for patients as well as professionals, the public, and health administration policymakers; and

- 8 WHEREAS, focusing on coordinated, patient centered, population health care, telehealth provides increased access to medical specialists, with consultations typically occurring more conveniently and timely; and

- 11 WHEREAS, in addition to remote clinical health care, telehealth includes patient learning, continuing medical education, provider training and administrative meetings; and

- 13 WHEREAS, telehealth services in the State of Georgia include county health departments and a variety of health care venues providing care in such areas as maternal fetal medicine; sickle cell; nutrition counseling; pulmonology; pre- and postsurgical consultations; infectious disease care; psychiatry; pediatric acute, chronic, emergency and critical care; hospital ICU; acute stroke; and general neurology and also includes special locations for victims of crime and community medical homes with innovative portals to care, such as home monitoring and consultation and school based health care; and

- 20 WHEREAS, Georgia serves as an example to other states by exhibiting a mature and robust telehealth network that promotes collaboration so that all citizens, rural or urban, have greater access to health care; and

23 WHEREAS, policymakers can encourage the collaboration and expansion of telehealth
24 services from all resource-rich communities so that low-resource communities have greater
25 access to needed health care; and

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize telehealth as an important tool to improving access to
28 health care for the citizens of Georgia and especially for those citizens living in underserved
29 communities.

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