

Senate Resolution 18

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Shafer of the 48th, Watson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th and Cowsert of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 12, 2017, as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day to show that ongoing
2 recovery from substance use disorder is real and people do get better; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2015, over 27 million people in the United States reported current use of
4 illicit drugs or misuse of prescription drugs, and over 66 million people (over a quarter of the
5 adult and adolescent population) reported binge drinking in the past month; and

6 WHEREAS, neighborhoods and communities as a whole are also suffering as a result of
7 alcohol- and drug-related crime and violence, abuse and neglect of children, and the
8 increased costs of health care associated with substance misuse; and

9 WHEREAS, historically, our society has treated addiction and misuse of alcohol and drugs
10 as symptoms of moral weaknesses or as a willful rejection of societal norms, and these
11 problems have been addressed primarily through our criminal justice system; and

12 WHEREAS, our health care system has not given the same level of attention to substance use
13 disorders as it has to other health concerns that affect similar numbers of people; and

14 WHEREAS, the Georgia Senate Opioid Study Committee under the leadership of Senators
15 Renee Unterman and Butch Miller held in-depth meetings during the fall of 2016 to hear
16 testimony around current services, statistics, and best practices from researchers,
17 professionals, and people in recovery on the obstacles and opportunities to improve services
18 and supports; and

19 WHEREAS, through bipartisan efforts and support, two groundbreaking pieces of federal
20 legislation were passed in 2016 to provide guidance and resources to invest in new and
21 proven approaches to prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery for persons
22 struggling with addiction and substance misuse; and

23 WHEREAS, both the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century
24 Cures Act will provide states with the necessary tools to tackle the opioid epidemic; and

25 WHEREAS, recovery can be achieved through diverse pathways that should be celebrated,
26 and the 25 million Americans in recovery and their families, including tens of thousands of
27 Georgians, have valuable experiences and encouragement to offer others who are struggling
28 with substance use disorders.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize January 12, 2017, as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
33 press.