

Senate Resolution 294

By: Senator Halpern of the 39th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the success of lay person CPR training in increasing the survival rate of cardiac
2 arrest and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the need of such training; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in April 2022, Collin Etheridge suffered a cardiac emergency while in P.E. class
5 at Brookstone School, and his P.E. teacher, who was trained in CPR, immediately began
6 compressions; and

7 WHEREAS, the school response team, which included Linda Sheffield, Lucy Pound, Nate
8 McConnell, and Jonnie Ellerbee, was alerted and an AED was brought to the scene; and

9 WHEREAS, the team alternated performing CPR and using the AED until paramedics
10 arrived on the scene, and thanks to the team's quick action, Collin's life was saved; and

11 WHEREAS, heart disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the
12 United States, and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in the United
13 States, affecting approximately 356,000 people of all ages outside hospitals annually; and

14 WHEREAS, during this week alone, about 6,800 unsuspecting victims will suffer SCA, most
15 of them at home (about 70 percent); their hearts will unexpectedly stop beating, blood will
16 no longer flow to the brain and throughout the body, and they will collapse, stop breathing
17 normally, and may appear to be having seizures—in essence, they will be dead and they will
18 stay this way unless bystanders act immediately to restore their heartbeats with CPR and
19 defibrillation; and

20 WHEREAS, unfortunately, only 46 percent of SCA victims receive the help that they need
21 from bystanders before EMS arrives at the scene; and

22 WHEREAS, for every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation, the chances of
23 survival decrease by 7-10 percent; as a result, only 10 percent of victims typically
24 survive—survival rates could double or triple if more people knew what to do when SCA
25 strikes; in fact, as many as 50,000 additional lives could be saved each year.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 pause in their deliberations to commend the great work by this team of lifesavers from
28 Brookstone School in saving Collin's life by initiating CPR.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that today, February 23, 2023, is CPR-AED Awareness Day
30 in the State of Georgia.

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.