

Senate Resolution 351

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Mullis of the 53rd, Unterman of the 45th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Grady Memorial Hospital and Grady Health System on the occasion of its
2 125th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Grady Health System was the vision of Henry W. Grady, editor of the *Atlanta*
4 *Constitution*, who worried about the lack of quality health care for Atlanta's poor, and on
5 June 1, 1892, his extraordinary dream came true when the doors to Grady Hospital were
6 officially opened with 110 beds and one operating room with an amphitheater for students
7 and staff; and

8 WHEREAS, Grady Health System has grown considerably from its original facility and now
9 stands as one of the largest public health systems in the United States and the largest hospital
10 in Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, Grady Health System maintains its strong commitment to the health care needs
12 of the underserved while offering a full range of specialized medical services for the entire
13 community; and

14 WHEREAS, Grady is recognized worldwide for its leadership in trauma care as the premier
15 Level 1 trauma center in Atlanta and for stroke interventions and care that are setting
16 standards across the industry; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1915, Emory University School of Medicine began training doctors at Grady
18 and offering exemplary care to the growing number of patients at the hospital; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1978, a medical school was established at Morehouse College and began also
20 assuming responsibility for patient care, medical education, and clinical research at Grady;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in partnership with the Emory and Morehouse schools of medicine, its
23 paramedic/EMT schools, radiology schools, and former nursing schools, Grady has trained
24 many medical professionals working in Georgia, including approximately 25 percent of the
25 state's physicians working today; and

26 WHEREAS, at any given time, more than 400 clinical trials may be underway at Grady,
27 making it one of the nation's most robust medical research programs; and

28 WHEREAS, throughout its 125 year history, Grady has been the home to many medical
29 "firsts" including: in the 1920s, the first open heart surgery in Georgia and the world's first
30 and largest comprehensive cancer center; in the 1970s, the Georgia Poison Center opened at
31 Grady; in the 1980s, the world's first 24 hour comprehensive Sickle Cell Center was created
32 at Grady; and in the 1990s, Grady revolutionized HIV/AIDS care by opening the Ponce
33 Center Infectious Disease Program; and

34 WHEREAS, Grady is home to one of only two verified burn centers in the state and Grady
35 EMS operates 911 for the City of Atlanta and for six rural Georgia counties as the largest
36 hospital based EMS in the state; and

37 WHEREAS, in January 2008, a coalition of state and community leaders agreed to create the
38 Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation, a nonprofit corporation charged with administering
39 the hospital, and members of a new board were announced; and

40 WHEREAS, in response to the board's fundraising campaign, more than \$350 million in
41 philanthropic donations helped "Save Grady"; and

42 WHEREAS, managing over 630,000 patient visits each year, in 2016, Grady Health System
43 provided more than \$270 million in indigent and charity care; and

44 WHEREAS, Grady continually reaches out to the community, emphasizing wellness,
45 prevention, and early detection; and

46 WHEREAS, with six neighborhood clinics in Fulton and DeKalb counties offering specialty
47 care in the communities, Grady also offers free health screenings, seminars, community fairs,
48 and educational conferences throughout the year.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
50 commend Grady Memorial Hospital and Grady Health System for 125 years of dedication
51 to serving the underserved in Atlanta, Fulton County, and DeKalb County, while also being
52 a resource for the entire state, training medical professionals, conducting cutting edge
53 research, and shaping the future of medicine and health care.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
55 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Grady Health
56 System.