

Senate Resolution 372

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Strickland of the 17th, Hatchett of the 50th, Orrock of the 36th, Hodges of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the improvement of the care of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 21 million patients have been diagnosed
5 with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) and are at risk of a cardiovascular
6 event according to the United States Census Bureau; and

7 WHEREAS, the Mayo Clinic states that ASCVD is linked to the build-up of cholesterol in
8 the arteries and the risk of associated events can be modified by lowering low-density
9 lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C); and

10 WHEREAS, in 2016, nearly 70 million United States adults had higher than recommended
11 LDL-C levels; and

12 WHEREAS, 43.1 million people in the United States are currently treated with lipid-
13 lowering therapies to manage cardiovascular risk; and

14 WHEREAS, only 20 percent of people with ASCVD who are taking statins, one of the
15 leading lipid-lowering therapies, actually achieve healthy levels of LDL-C; and

16 WHEREAS, the total direct and indirect cost of ASCVD in the United States was \$555
17 billion in 2016 and is projected to climb to \$1.1 trillion by 2035 according to the American
18 Heart Association; and

19 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 712,500 adults have been told by a health professional that they had
20 angina, a stroke, a heart attack, or coronary heart disease, which are some of the
21 manifestations of ASCVD; and

22 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 9,009 people had ASCVD as an underlying cause of death; and

23 WHEREAS, in Georgia, 342,400 adults reported experiencing a heart attack in their lifetime
24 and 300,900 adults reported experiencing a stroke in their lifetime; and

25 WHEREAS, Georgia spends an estimated \$4.19 billion on direct medical expenses for
26 ASCVD care each year.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 urge state agencies to expand comprehensive cardiovascular screening programs to allow for
29 earlier identification of patients at risk of cardiovascular events.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge state agencies to explore
31 ways to collaborate with federal and national agencies and organizations to establish or
32 expand comprehensive cardiovascular screening programs.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge for an update of the
34 state's cardiovascular plan to accelerate quality improvements in the care rendered to these
35 patients such that screening, treatment, monitoring, and improved health outcomes are
36 achieved.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body support the creation of
38 policies to decrease the rising number of deaths of Americans as a result of atherosclerotic
39 cardiovascular disease.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Governor Brian
42 Kemp, President Pro Tempore John F. Kennedy, and Speaker Jon Burns.