

Senate Resolution 139

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Burke of the 11th, Tillery of the 19th, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2019, as Physician's Day at the state capitol and saluting the
2 physicians of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia physicians are trusted leaders who have a positive and lasting impact
4 on the health of their patients and the health of their community as a whole; and

5 WHEREAS, physicians also critically support the health of their local and state economies
6 through the creation of jobs with their related wages and benefits, the purchase of goods and
7 services, and large-scale support of state and local tax revenues; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia legislature has helped foster one of the strongest practice
9 environments in the country for both patients and physicians; and

10 WHEREAS, physicians have entered into their profession to offer services of care,
11 prevention, and surgical intervention when necessary for the physical and mental well-being
12 of their patients and are concerned with the overall well-being of the public's health; and

13 WHEREAS, physicians are committed to providing the highest level of care for their patients
14 in spite of challenges they are facing from the insurance industry, including prior
15 authorizations, rate setting practices, unequal contract negotiations, and depressed
16 reimbursement rates; and

17 WHEREAS, Georgia physicians are a vital part of the community and the state, with more
18 than 19,000 physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state and accounting for more
19 than 88,000 direct jobs, 117,000 indirect jobs, and 205,000 total jobs; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia physicians support 10.8 jobs on average (including their own); and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia physicians are strong contributors to the Georgia economy, accounting
22 for \$29.7 billion of total sales and revenue generated by the health care industry, more than
23 \$16.6 billion of total wages and benefits supported by the physician industry, and \$1.1 billion
24 in local and state tax revenue; and

25 WHEREAS, this state recognizes the Medical Association of Georgia, and several specialty
26 societies including the Medical Association of Atlanta, Hall County Medical Society,
27 Medical Reserve Corps, Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists, Georgia Society of
28 Ophthalmology, Georgia Radiological Society, Georgia Orthopaedic Society, Georgia
29 Psychiatric Physicians Association, Georgia Medical Directors Association, Georgia Society
30 of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, American College of Cardiology, Georgia
31 Society of Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Georgia College of Emergency Physicians, Georgia
32 Society on Interventional Pain Coverage, Physicians for Fair Coverage, and Resurgens
33 Orthopaedics for their contributions.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 join in recognizing February 20, 2019, as Physician's Day at the state capitol and saluting the
36 physicians of Georgia.

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