

## Senate Resolution 419

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Butler of the 55th, Kirk of the 13th and Burke of the 11th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for 40 years of advocacy  
2 for older Georgians and individuals with disabilities who reside in long-term care facilities;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program was developed as a pilot project in  
5 1971 during the administration of President Richard Milhous Nixon; and

6 WHEREAS, the 1978 Amendments to the Older Americans Act changed the pilot program  
7 to a statutory program described as the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Long-Term Care  
9 Ombudsman Program in 1979 to investigate and resolve long-term care facility residents'  
10 complaints, monitor facility conditions, establish a statewide reporting system for  
11 complaints, monitor the development and implementation of federal, state, and local  
12 long-term care policies, and protect the confidentiality of residents' records, complainants'  
13 identities and ombudsman files; and

14 WHEREAS, local Ombudsman Representatives are instrumental in addressing resident  
15 concerns such as discharge and eviction, inadequate care, violation of rights, and quality of  
16 life, assist residents by providing information and assistance to families, facilities, public  
17 officials and the general public; and

18 WHEREAS, 40 paid local Ombudsman Representatives make quarterly visits to all 371  
19 nursing homes and 2,544 personal care homes and assisted living communities across the  
20 state to be available to the 80,306 residents in those long-term care facilities; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program advocates to resolve a  
22 single resident's concerns, advocates to resolve issues for all residents residing in a particular

23 facility, and advocates for public policies including proposing legislation, commenting on  
24 pending legislation, and facilitating resident participation in the advocacy process; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has impacted policy by  
26 participating in developing rules for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Communities,  
27 and Proxy Caregivers, implementing Home Care Ombudsman services for Money Follows  
28 the Person participants, and developing the Disability Services Ombudsman Program; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is celebrating 40 years of  
30 successfully advocating for long-term care residents in nursing homes, personal care homes  
31 and assisted living communities.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 heartily commend the Georgia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for 40 years of  
34 dedicated service to long-term care facility residents, and extend to the program sincere best  
35 wishes for continued success in resolving complaints and providing advocacy for long-term  
36 care residents across the state.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Melanie McNeil,  
39 State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.