

House Resolution 501

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Clark of the 101st, and Ballinger of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing February, 2015, as Self-Care Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, self-care is a lifelong daily habit of healthy lifestyle choices, good hygiene
3 practices, prevention of infection and illness, avoiding unhealthy choices, monitoring for
4 signs and symptoms of changes in health, knowing when to consult a health care practitioner,
5 and knowing when it is appropriate to self-treat conditions; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration deems over-the-counter
7 medicines safe and effective for the self-care treatment of minor, acute, and chronic health
8 conditions and symptoms such as pain, the common cold, allergies, and other conditions that
9 impact large segments of the population; and
- 10 WHEREAS, over-the-counter medicines are either developed as new nonprescription
11 medicines or switched from existing prescription medicines; and
- 12 WHEREAS, over-the-counter nonprescription medicines are self-care products that
13 consumers purchase in pharmacies, supermarkets, retail stores, and online; and
- 14 WHEREAS, every dollar spent on over-the-counter medicines saves the United States health
15 care system \$6-7 each year, totaling \$102 billion in annual savings; and
- 16 WHEREAS, nonprescription medicines help to ease the burden on health care practitioners,
17 eliminating unnecessary medical examinations that could be avoided with appropriate
18 self-care; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Georgia benefits when its citizens practice appropriate self-care; do not
20 unnecessarily visit health care practitioners; and are empowered by higher self-esteem,
21 improved health, and reduced use of health care services; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia encourages its citizens to take advantage of self-care's potential to
23 improve personal and public health, save personal and public treasury, and strengthen the
24 sustainability of Georgia's health care system; and

25 WHEREAS, achieving self-care's potential is a shared opportunity for consumers, health care
26 practitioners, policymakers, and regulators.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize the importance of improving awareness of self-care and
29 the value it represents to the citizens of Georgia, support increased consumer empowerment
30 through the development of new nonprescription medicines and the appropriate switch of
31 certain prescription medicines to nonprescription, acknowledge that over-the-counter
32 medicines can greatly improve and reduce costs to the public health system, and encourage
33 consumers, health care practitioners, policymakers, and regulators to communicate the
34 benefits of self-care.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 public and the press.