



**Better health literacy
WILL improve the health
of Georgia residents and
save money!**

Health Literacy (HL)

**is communicating information about health care—
both verbally and in writing—in a way people
understand, so they can make better decisions
and access services easily.**



**Georgia Alliance for
Health Literacy**

The Georgia Alliance for Health Literacy (GAHL) is a 501c3 not-for-profit, all volunteer alliance of professionals representing academia, hospitals, government, libraries, for profits, passionately committed to improving health literacy in Georgia. Visit www.gahealthliteracy.org and georgiahealthliteracy@gmail.com for more information.

Poor health literacy affects health and costs all Georgians.

What can better health literacy do for Georgia?

Increase use of preventive services to keep people well

- Low HL causes people to get care when they are sicker and use emergency services for non-urgent care
- Savings — Average ER visit expense is \$1,318

GA Lawmakers can help by supporting health curriculum for adult education

Provide patient education so people can manage chronic conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes

- Low HL makes managing chronic conditions more difficult, leading to poor outcomes
- Savings — 3 out of every 4 healthcare dollars are spent treating chronic diseases

GA Lawmakers can help by including health literacy in K-12 education

Help prevent adverse medical events among patients

- Low HL causes people to take medication incorrectly
- Savings — 400,000 preventable medication errors cost \$3.5 billion every year

GA Lawmakers can help by promoting public health education in WIC, others

Reduce excess hospitalizations and readmissions – encourage better self-care

- Low HL leads to misunderstanding discharge instructions and return trips to the hospital
- Reducing preventable readmissions by 10% could save \$1 billion annually

GA Lawmakers can help by championing health literacy in your districts



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