

House Resolution 131

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Cooper of the 45th, Parrish of the 158th, Taylor of the 173rd, and Hatchett of the 155th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Easterseals Georgia and its chapters' Champions for Children program; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters throughout Georgia offer and provide services at more
4 than 40 locations to thousands of individuals, and their families, who have birth defects and
5 disabilities to help improve their physical mobility, health, and employment opportunities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters work with their clients and families through various family
8 support initiatives, giving them greater independence for everyday living; and

9 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters offer programs designed to help children and adults
10 learn—and often re-learn—basic functions, master skills needed to develop and thrive, and
11 be sharp and active as they age by building a more accessible world and providing guidance
12 for care givers; and

13 WHEREAS, Easterseals provides a range of training, placement, and related services that
14 help people prepare for the workforce through vocational services; and

15 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters provide hands-on, comprehensive, and vital programs and
16 support to help people reach their full potential through Head Start, family support,
17 residential services, adult day programs, and Champions for Children; and

18 WHEREAS, Easterseals initiated the Champions for Children effort in 2007 with the General
19 Assembly's provision of \$7.6 million in initial funding to help medically fragile children as
20 well as many with autism, Down syndrome, and other costly diseases who are not medically
21 eligible for participating in the TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver Program so that they
22 could remain with their families; and

23 WHEREAS, through the initial appropriation for Champions for Children, Easterseals
24 worked to leverage private dollars to help children who did not meet the Katie Beckett
25 Waiver criteria so that families could receive help with their children's enormous medical
26 costs; and

27 WHEREAS, Easterseals now serves more than 400 special needs children up to the age of 18
28 and their families annually through the Champions for Children program; and

29 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program has provided respite care to families,
30 hearing aids, special medical foods, dental care, optical care, recreation and therapeutic
31 activities, and a host of other items so that these children may live at home with their
32 families; and

33 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program can conceivably be known as the "Angels"
34 for Children program as it provides tools and services to many Georgia children so that they
35 can live successful lives.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body extend a warm greeting to Easterseals Georgia and its chapters, as
38 well as their staff, volunteers, and the individuals and families whom they serve, and convey
39 to them this legislative body's heartiest commendation for their past, present, and future work
40 for those individuals in this state.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
43 Easterseals Georgia and its chapters.