

House Resolution 887

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158th, England of the 116th, Dempsey of the 13th, Stephens of the 164th, and Anulewicz of the 42nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Easterseals and recognizing January 17, 2020, as Easterseals Georgia and its
2 Champions for Children Program Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, thousands of Americans are impacted by birth defects and disabilities annually,
4 including many Georgians; and

5 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters throughout the state provide services to individuals with
6 birth defects and disabilities and their families in order to help improve their physical
7 mobility, enhance employment opportunities, and provide greater independence for everyday
8 living; and

9 WHEREAS, Easterseals chapters' services include autism services; respite family services,
10 including Megan's House; vocational services and job placements; adult day programs;
11 community living support; Head Start and Early Head Start; and Champions for Children;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Easterseals began Champions for Children in 2007 with funding provided by
14 the General Assembly in order to help medically fragile children who are not eligible to
15 participate in the TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver Program; and

16 WHEREAS, the initial appropriation for Champions for Children established a \$7.6 million
17 grant fund which leveraged private dollars to help children who did not meet the Katie
18 Beckett Waiver criteria so that families could receive help with their enormous medical
19 costs; and

20 WHEREAS, as the fiscal agent for Champions for Children, Easterseals, along with
21 philanthropic and state support, has cautiously stretched the original funds to now serve more
22 than 400 children and their families annually; and

23 WHEREAS, since its inception, Champions for Children has provided direct financial
24 assistance and support services to Georgia families with medically fragile and special needs
25 children up to the age of 18; and

26 WHEREAS, children served through Champions for Children's initiative have autism
27 spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, and other costly diseases; and

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

31 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program can conceivably be known as "angels" for
32 children program, as it provides tools to many Georgia children so that they can live
33 successful lives.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend Easterseals, its staff, and volunteers and convey to them
36 this legislative body's heartiest appreciation for their past, present, and future work for the
37 individuals they serve in this state, throughout our nation, and around the world and
38 recognize January 17, 2020, as Easterseals Georgia and its Champions for Children Program
39 Day at the state capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available to Easterseals Georgia.