

House Resolution 1957

By: Representatives Butler of the 88th, Post 1, Harper of the 88th, Post 2, Stokes of the 72nd, Bordeaux of the 125th, Oliver of the 56th, Post 2, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Kate Weaver and honoring and remembering the life of Donna Hoedt; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on April 2, 1996, at the age of 33, Donna Hoedt lost her life when she was
4 murdered by her husband; and

5 WHEREAS, her husband was arrested and convicted of her murder and sentenced to life in
6 prison; and

7 WHEREAS, Donna Hoedt's murder was tragic, but it was senselessly worsened by the fact
8 that her spouse, while incarcerated, retained parental rights over the couple's four children;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, since that time, Donna's mother, Kate Weaver, has led a valiant crusade to
11 bring public and media attention to the lack of state laws that strip parental rights from
12 spouses who murder their partners; and

13 WHEREAS, Kate Weaver was successful in attaining custody of the four children but only
14 after having to take her battle to court and expending over \$15,000.00 in legal fees; and

15 WHEREAS, Kate Weaver has appeared on nationally syndicated talk shows such as *The*
16 *Maury Show*, hosted by Maury Povich, to educate and inform the public about the issue; and

17 WHEREAS, in acknowledgment of Donna's death and her mother's subsequent struggle for
18 her grandchildren, the General Assembly of the State of Georgia has enacted into law House
19 Bill 1632, a measure that will terminate a parent's right if he or she is convicted of murdering
20 the child's other parent; and

1 WHEREAS, while the loss of Donna Hoedt and the Weaver family's struggle is terrible
2 beyond words, it is an experience no Georgia family will likely ever have to suffer again.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 the members of this body honor and remember the life and tragic death of Donna Hoedt and
5 commend Kate Weaver for her great efforts to educate the public and this state's officials.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Kate Weaver.