

House Resolution 1401

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Tumlin of the 38th, Cooper of the 41st, Johnson of the 37th, Parsons of the 42nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering Natalie Tumlin and her contributions to the advocacy movement for people
2 with disabilities; recognizing the contributions of direct support professionals in supporting
3 people with disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Natalie Tumlin, who was born with cerebral palsy, began advocating for herself
6 in elementary school by letting her teachers know that she wanted to be included with her
7 fellow students; and

8 WHEREAS, Natalie was forced to communicate with the world through assistive
9 technology, which enabled her to make her voice heard; and

10 WHEREAS, Natalie advocated for other Georgia citizens with disabilities by beginning the
11 Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign and speaking to the boards of the Department of Human
12 Resources and Department of Community Health, members of the legislature, and three
13 Governors about the need for home and community based services; and

14 WHEREAS, this courageous young woman continued learning and developing her advocacy
15 skills by starting a People First chapter and by participating in Georgia Voices that Count and
16 numerous other advocacy activities; and

17 WHEREAS, Natalie was a full and contributing member of society as demonstrated by her
18 independent living, employment, volunteer work, travel, Civitan membership, and vocal
19 advocacy for those individuals with disabilities who could not speak for themselves; and

20 WHEREAS, Natalie told Governor Perdue that nobody was more important in her life than
21 her direct support staff person, Gina; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia citizens with disabilities are able to live self-determined lives supported
2 by direct support professionals; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States Congress affirmed the need, importance, and significant
4 impact of a qualified, available, and adequately compensated direct support professional
5 work force as critical to the support of people with disabilities living in their communities
6 through the Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 and House Concurrent Resolution 94 by
7 unanimous consent; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's citizens with disabilities who are on waiting lists for home and
9 community based services, or who are waiting to move from institutions to the community,
10 will need a qualified, stable, long-term direct support work force whose members have
11 access to quality training, sustainable wages, and benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, direct support professionals benefit from opportunities to join with other direct
13 support staff for information, assistance, and professional growth and development through
14 an alliance of direct support professionals.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 the members of this body remember Ms. Natalie Tumlin, recognize her efforts to improve
17 services for Georgia's disabled citizens, and commend those direct support professionals who
18 provide valuable assistance to disabled persons everywhere.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
20 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Natalie
21 Tumlin.