

House Resolution 1126

By: Representative Neal of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring January 14, 2010, as Addiction Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, substance abuse ranks among the top 10 health problems in the United States
4 and science has shown that addiction is a brain disease that responds well to treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States comprises only 4% of the world's population, yet consumes
6 over 60% of the world's illegal drugs; and

7 WHEREAS, children who start to drink alcohol before the age of 15 are four times more
8 likely to become alcoholics than those who don't drink before they turn 21; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2007, only 6.5% of Georgians who needed help for alcohol abuse were
10 treated while only 2.8% of Georgians who needed help for drug addiction received treatment;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, state governments bear the financial burden of the consequences of drugs and
13 alcohol abuse, consuming an average of 13% for every state's budget; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately 80% of Georgia's prison inmates are abusers of alcohol or other
15 drugs, but only 10% receive substance abuse treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, successful substance abuse prevention and treatment has been shown to reduce
17 crime, increase workplace productivity, and improve overall relationships and quality of life;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, it is important to put an end to discrimination against individuals with addiction
20 illnesses and remove the stigma that exists so that more people in trouble will seek out proper
21 care and treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, several organizations made up of dedicated substance abuse treatment
23 professionals are available in Georgia to provide assistance and information to those
24 suffering with addiction, including the Georgia Association of Recovery Residences, the
25 Georgia Addiction Counselors Association, and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.

26 WHEREAS, recovering from drug or alcohol abuse involves addressing discrimination,
27 transcending stigmas, and rebuilding one's life – a reality for thousands of Georgians each
28 day.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body applaud the contributions and efforts of those working in the
31 addiction recovery profession to assist patients suffering from substance abuse problems.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thursday, January 14, 2010, is recognized as Addiction
33 Recovery Awareness Day at the state capitol.