

## House Resolution 389

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Riley of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 46<sup>th</sup>, and Martin of the 47<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Will to Live Foundation and inviting the Trautwein family to be recognized  
2 by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Will to Live Foundation was created to work with teenagers and young  
4 adults to help promote teen suicide prevention through fundraisers and kid centered activities  
5 that raise money for teen suicide prevention, education, and counseling centers in Georgia  
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, the Will to Live Foundation was established by the Trautwein family on  
8 October 15, 2010, to honor the life and legacy of Richard Williams "Will" Trautwein, who  
9 was 15 when he took his life; and

10 WHEREAS, through the Trautwein's loss and pain, the family found courage and strength  
11 and were determined to spread awareness of teen suicide and get young people involved in  
12 the fight against suicide; and

13 WHEREAS, with the motto "For the kids, Through the kids, By the kids," the Will to Live  
14 Foundation is unique because instead of adults talking to kids about suicide education, kids  
15 talk to other kids about preventing suicide and young adults help plan and coordinate all the  
16 foundation's activities and fundraisers; and

17 WHEREAS, the most effective way to ensure that young adults get the message that suicide  
18 is not the answer is to hear from their peers and friends who are experiencing the same  
19 stresses and pressures; and

20 WHEREAS, having "life teammates," people in your life you can call upon in times of  
21 trouble and happiness who know you will always be there for them as well, helps teens cope  
22 with problems and be confident that they will always have someone to turn to; and

23 WHEREAS, when teens know they are not alone in their lives they are more likely to express  
24 their fears, doubts, and thoughts to others, helping to decrease the incidents of suicide in  
25 young adults; and

26 WHEREAS, working closely with suicide prevention experts, the foundation strives to be  
27 a resource for kids and their families and to educate these young adults on the professional  
28 services and counseling organizations that are available to them in times of need and to help  
29 families learn more about the epidemic of teen suicide and to help them understand what to  
30 look for and what to do when a friend has communicated to them that the friend is struggling,  
31 in need of help, or having suicidal thoughts; and

32 WHEREAS, on February 12, 2011, over 1,500 people gathered in Johns Creek, Georgia, to  
33 partake or watch in the first ever Where There's A WILL, There's A Way 5K, with over  
34 1,350 people running for Will and other friends and family members who have fallen victim  
35 to suicide.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body commend the Trautwein family for their courage and strength,  
38 recognize the Will to Live Foundation for its dedication to preventing teen suicide, and invite  
39 the Trautwein family to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to  
40 be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Trautwein family.