

Senate Resolution 1086

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the March of Dimes and recognizing March 5, 2012, as March of Dimes Day
2 at the capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is leading a state and national effort to prevent preterm
4 births by funding research to find the causes, supporting local programs that offer hope and
5 help to families with an infant in intensive care, and advocating for public policies that will
6 help improve birth outcomes; and

7 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 and supported the development of a
8 vaccine that has virtually eliminated the crippling disease of polio in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, preterm birth, the current major focus of the March of Dimes, is the greatest
10 contributing factor to newborns dying within their first month of life; and

11 WHEREAS, over half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States, and
12 over 19,500 preterm births occurred in Georgia in 2008, a figure which represents one in
13 every eight babies born in this state and a 2 percent increase in preterm births since 1998; and

14 WHEREAS, these dire statistics were a major reason for Georgia's receiving a grade of "D"
15 in a 2011 report by the March of Dimes on premature birth rates among the states in the
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes will be at the capitol on March 5,
18 2012, to raise awareness among legislators about the serious consequences of preterm birth
19 and to advocate for policies to address this significant public health challenge; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the contributions of the March of Dimes
21 be appropriately recognized.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless volunteers for their past, present,
24 and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this state, throughout the nation, and
25 around the world, and recognize March 5, 2012, as March of Dimes Day at the capitol.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
27 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the March of Dimes Georgia Chapter.