

## House Resolution 1859

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Cathy Willis Spraez on the occasion of her retirement;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Cathy Willis Spraez served as Chief Executive Officer of Partnership  
4 Against Domestic Violence (PADV) since 1999; and

5 WHEREAS, during her 12 years of service, she was able to increase PADV's budget by more  
6 than 150 percent and make PADV the "go to" domestic violence organization by the media;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Spraez has raised awareness about and increased the funding for programs  
9 against domestic violence in Georgia, as well as advocated for the need for more laws that  
10 help battered women; and

11 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Safe House is a testimony to her dedication and fundraising efforts  
12 in which she was able to raise \$1.8 million during its first phase of the capital campaign; and

13 WHEREAS, prior to her work with PADV, Ms. Spraez served as CEO for disability-focused  
14 organizations, including United Cerebral Palsy of Macon and Middle Georgia from 1975 to  
15 1987, where she served infants with cerebral palsy and other disabilities as UCP's first early  
16 intervention coordinator, and Parent to Parent of Georgia, Inc., from 1987 to 1999; and

17 WHEREAS, her experience includes having worked at the Academy for the Blind, working  
18 with young children who experienced multiple disabilities as a result of the 1967 Rubella  
19 epidemic; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Spraez is a former member of the Georgia Council on Developmental  
21 Disabilities and served as the immediate past president of the Georgia Coalition Against  
22 Domestic Violence; and

23 WHEREAS, she has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for her vital role in  
24 helping the disabled and victims and survivors of domestic violence, and her efforts have left  
25 Georgia better prepared in serving the specific needs of these communities; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of  
27 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body commend Ms. Cathy Willis Spraez for her efficient, effective,  
30 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia, congratulate her upon the  
31 grand occasion of her retirement, and extend to her their most sincere best wishes for  
32 continued health and happiness.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Cathy Willis Spraez.