

## House Resolution 181

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Lumsden of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Atwood of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Deffenbaugh of the 1<sup>st</sup>, Tanner of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending law enforcement cooperation between the State of Georgia, the United States  
2 Department of State, and the Republic of Georgia and inviting Director Vernon Keenan of  
3 the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to be recognized by the House of Representatives.

4 WHEREAS, the Republic of Georgia, which gained its independence from the Soviet Union  
5 in 1991, is an emerging democracy committed to reforming the Ministry of Internal Affairs  
6 (MIA) and the national police force to reflect the best international practices and community  
7 policing; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and  
9 Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the United States Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, endeavor  
10 to assist law enforcement in the Republic of Georgia as they seek to improve law  
11 enforcement competencies and response to emergencies through a long-term criminal justice  
12 development program which began in 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, the Republic of Georgia is the size of South Carolina with a population of over  
14 4.5 million people, and the MIA is composed of 27,000 officers; and

15 WHEREAS, the INL Senior Police Advisor at the United States Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia,  
16 is Michael Turner, a retired Chief of Police from the State of Georgia, who has established  
17 the Georgia-to-Georgia development program matching law enforcement from the State of  
18 Georgia to their counterparts in the Republic of Georgia for training, mentoring, and  
19 development purposes; and

20 WHEREAS, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) responded to an INL request for  
21 assistance by sponsoring site visits to the GBI and Crime Laboratory while also providing  
22 law enforcement development classes for the MIA; and

23 WHEREAS, the GBI has assisted the Republic of Georgia since 2010 by hosting delegations  
24 and providing best practices based training courses for the MIA in investigative, tactical, and  
25 management areas; and

26 WHEREAS, 27 GBI personal have donated more than 1,000 hours of vacation and leave  
27 time since 2010 to provide a multitude of specialized and instructor training programs for  
28 more than 250 of their MIA counterparts.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body recognize the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and its employees  
31 for their selfless donation of time and experience reflected in the assistance provided to the  
32 Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs and invite Director Vernon Keenan of the  
33 Georgia Bureau of Investigation to be recognize by the House of Representatives at a date  
34 and time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to  
36 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the United States Department of State's  
37 Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the United States Embassy  
38 in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.