

## Senate Resolution 243

By: Senators Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Tate of the 38th, Henson of the 41st, Carter of the 42nd, Miller of the 49th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending former First Lady Rosalynn Carter for her commitment to  
2 mental health; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has been actively working in dedicated  
4 service to the State of Georgia, the United States, and the world as she has served as the  
5 nation's foremost champion for the rights of people with mental illnesses; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Carter is united in love and marriage to former President Jimmy Carter,  
7 and the two have been blessed with four remarkable children, John, James, Donnel, and  
8 Amy; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Carter served as the First Lady of Georgia from 1971 to 1975 and First  
10 Lady of the United States from 1977 to 1981; and

11 WHEREAS, during President Carter's term in the White House, Mrs. Carter assumed the role  
12 of Active Honorary Chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, which began on  
13 February 17, 1977, and eventually created and submitted the Mental Health Systems Act, the  
14 most sweeping reform on mental health legislation in 30 years, which was passed and funded  
15 in September, 1980; and

16 WHEREAS, even after her husband's presidency, she has continued to diligently and  
17 conscientiously devote her time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of people in our  
18 state, our country, and world as evidenced by her years of exceptional service with The  
19 Carter Center, a private, nonprofit institution founded by former President and Mrs. Jimmy  
20 Carter in 1982, where she served as vice chair of the board of trustees until May 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, she has served as a volunteer at the Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta and  
22 for four years was honorary chairperson for the Georgia Special Olympics; and

23 WHEREAS, she continues her efforts to improve mental health care and to promote other  
24 projects that would result in "good for others" such as Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit  
25 organization that helps people build their own homes; and

26 WHEREAS, Mrs. Carter also has written several books, two of which were about mental  
27 illness: *Helping Someone with Mental Illness* and *Within Our Reach: Ending the Mental*  
28 *Health Crisis*; and

29 WHEREAS, she is a woman with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence,  
30 fairness, and kindness, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding  
31 accomplishments of this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 commend former First Lady Rosalynn Carter for decades of efficient, effective, and  
34 dedicated public service to the State of Georgia, congratulate her upon the grand occasion  
35 of her presentation on mental health at The Carter Center, and extend their sincere best  
36 wishes for continued success on her mission to improve the quality and quantity of services  
37 available for those in need of mental health services.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.