

House Resolution 367

By: Representatives Hitchens of the 161st and Burns of the 159th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Tre' and Jenny Wilkins for founding the Catie Wilkins
2 Memorial Fund through CURE Childhood Cancer; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Catie Wilkins, Tre' and Jenny Wilkins's firstborn child, was born with a slight
4 gross motor delay that led to an eventual diagnosis of medulloblastoma, an aggressive brain
5 tumor, on her first birthday; and

6 WHEREAS, this brave little girl endured 12 surgeries, four different chemotherapy
7 protocols, and six weeks of radiation while still managing to radiate joy, energy, laughter,
8 and love in her too-short four years and four months of life; and

9 WHEREAS, those who knew and loved Catie were forever changed by the enormity of her
10 spirit and her determination to live her life to the fullest despite the challenges she faced; and

11 WHEREAS, in honor of Catie's brief but remarkable life, Tre' and Jenny began Catie's Fund,
12 a fund devoted to supporting life-saving research for pediatric cancers through CURE
13 Childhood Cancer, an organization that strives to improve the care, quality of life, and
14 survival rate of children with cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, the founders are parents and a dedicated pediatric oncologist who joined forces
16 to support laboratory research that would translate into immediate care for children with
17 cancer, and since their efforts began, CURE has raised millions of dollars to fund cutting
18 edge research at the Aflac Cancer Center Blood Disorders Service at Children's Healthcare
19 of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine; and

20 WHEREAS, CURE funds both basic and clinical research with a specific focus on targeted
21 therapies, treatments that focus only on the cancer cells, keeping surrounding, healthy cells
22 safe and unharmed; and

23 WHEREAS, CURE also provides support for stricken families, providing them comfort and
24 support during their time of need; and

25 WHEREAS, Tre' and Jenny Wilkins have added their efforts to CURE Childhood Cancer's
26 inspirational crusade against a disease that has taken far too many young lives, and it is
27 abundantly fitting and proper that their heroic perseverance in creating a better world where
28 parents will not know their heartbreak be applauded.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize that there is no greater pain than losing a child and
31 commend Tre' and Jenny Wilkins for the unimaginable strength they have demonstrated in
32 surpassing their own grief to create the Catie Wilkins Memorial Fund in honor of a life that
33 was extraordinary despite being brief and in honor of thousands of other children battling
34 cancer.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Tre' and Jenny Wilkins.