

House Resolution 1061

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Rynders of the 152nd, Pruett of the 149th, Kidd of the 145th, Houston of the 170th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Easter Seals and its Champions for Children Initiative and inviting them to be
2 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, each year, thousands of Americans are impacted by birth defects and
4 disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Easter Seals, a nonprofit entity with locations across the state, offers services
6 to individuals or families of individuals with birth defects and disabilities and works to
7 enhance their care and quality of life through improved physical mobility, employment
8 opportunities, and greater independence for everyday living; and

9 WHEREAS, Champions for Children was first commenced in 2007 and was funded by an
10 appropriation made by the Georgia General Assembly in 2006 as guidelines for participation
11 in the TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Program changed and many families no longer
12 qualified because of eligibility changes; and

13 WHEREAS, the appropriation established \$7.6 million in grant funding to be leveraged with
14 private dollars to help children who did not meet the Katie Beckett Waiver criteria; and

15 WHEREAS, the award of this grant funding was made by the Department of Human
16 Resources, through a competitive process, to the Georgia Easter Seals Coalition; and

17 WHEREAS, Easter Seals Georgia began its Champions for Children program as a result of
18 a desire to help Georgia's working families who have children with special needs, as these
19 children are more costly; and

20 WHEREAS, Champions for Children has provided direct financial assistance and support
21 services to Georgia families with medically fragile and special needs children, serving
22 approximately 300 Georgia families annually; and

23 WHEREAS, the funding used to establish this initiative was projected to last no more than
24 three years, but due to Easter Seals' fiscal stewardship and tireless efforts to stretch this
25 funding by finding private partners, it is still providing help to medically fragile children and
26 their families; and

27 WHEREAS, Champions for Children has assisted families with children who have special
28 needs through no fault of their own by providing respite care, hearing aids, special medical
29 foods, dental care, optical care, recreation and therapeutic activities, and a host of other items
30 so that they may live at home with their families; and

31 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program can conceivably be known as "angels" for
32 children by providing tools so that these Georgia children can be successful in life.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend Easter Seals and its staff, volunteers, its Champions for
35 Children Initiative, and the individuals and families that are served and convey to them this
36 legislative body's heartiest commendation for their past, present, and future work for those
37 individuals in this state, throughout our nation, and around the world and encourage all
38 citizens to support Easter Seals chapters and Champions for Children and their efforts
39 helping those individuals with special needs and disabilities and invite them to be recognized
40 by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the
41 House.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Easter Seals and its
44 Champions for Children Initiative.