

## House Resolution 1678

By: Representatives Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Ealum of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Greene of the 151<sup>st</sup>, and Dukes of the 154<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March, 2016, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month at the state  
2 capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia citizens with developmental disabilities contribute significantly to this  
4 state's schools, families, faith communities, and workforce; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia recognizes the need for a community based system of support for  
6 individuals with developmental disabilities and is supportive of critical programs and  
7 services to promote inclusion, community integration, and person centered planning; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia believes that citizens with developmental disabilities should make their  
9 own decisions, live where and with whomever they choose, and receive the support they need  
10 to be successful, productive, and as independent as possible; and

11 WHEREAS, since their inception, the Albany Advocacy Resource Center, Easter Seals of  
12 South Georgia, and The Arc Georgia have become leading resources for guiding, supporting,  
13 joining, and developing inclusive communities across Georgia for people living with  
14 disabilities, while promoting activities and creating opportunities that enable people with  
15 developmental disabilities to exercise their rights to live, learn, work, play, and worship in  
16 the place and manner of their choice; and

17 WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an appropriate time to  
18 recognize the efforts to achieve a culture of meaningful and full inclusion of individuals with  
19 developmental disabilities in all facets of community life and to set forth a commitment to  
20 identify barriers and develop solutions; and

21 WHEREAS, recognizing the abilities and contributions of people with developmental  
22 disabilities enriches this state and signifies a commitment to equal opportunity, equal access,  
23 and equal rights for individuals with disabilities; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia believes that citizens with developmental disabilities, through  
25 self-determination, should make their own decisions through education on policy and the  
26 democratic system; and

27 WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an appropriate time to  
28 recognize the right to vote by all Georgia citizens, including those with developmental  
29 disabilities, as one of the basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body recognize March, 2016, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness  
32 Month at the state capitol.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
35 public and the press.