

House Resolution 437

By: Representatives Welch of the 110th, Gardner of the 57th, Parrish of the 158th, Williams of the 119th, Jasperse of the 11th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the March of Dimes and recognizing March 1, 2017, as March of Dimes Day
2 at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants
4 and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant
5 mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 to fight polio, and funded the
7 development of two vaccines that virtually eliminated the crippling disease, and in 1958,
8 having achieved its initial mission, shifted its attention from polio to the prevention of
9 preterm birth, the greatest contributing factor to newborns dying within their first month of
10 life; and

11 WHEREAS, nearly half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States,
12 and over 14,121 preterm births occurred in Georgia in 2015, a figure which represents one
13 in every nine babies born in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, these statistics were a major reason for Georgia's receiving a grade of "D" in
15 a 2016 report by the March of Dimes on premature birth rates among the states in the nation;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes will be at the capitol on
18 March 1, 2017, to raise awareness among legislators about the serious consequences of
19 preterm birth and to advocate for policies to address this significant public health challenge.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless
22 volunteers for their past, present, and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this

23 state, throughout the nation, and around the world, and recognize March 1, 2017, as March
24 of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
27 March of Dimes in Georgia.