

Senate Resolution 337

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Unterman of the 45th, Watson of the 1st, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Kirk of the 13th 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 SENATE that the members of this body
21 commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless volunteers for their past, present,
22 and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this state, throughout the nation, and
23 around the world, and recognize March 1, 2017, as March of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

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