

Senate Resolution 353

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta therapy dogs known as  
2 "Canines For Kids"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Canines For Kids Program was established  
4 in 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta employs 13 full-time therapy dogs in various  
6 departments at Egleston and Scottish Rite and well as the Marcus Autism Center; and

7 WHEREAS, therapy dogs undergo a comprehensive and intensive training process for a  
8 duration of 18 months; and

9 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Canines For Kids have had a positive impact  
10 on the emotional well-being and physical health of patients; and

11 WHEREAS, hospital therapy dogs have calmed fears, provided comfort, and reduced anxiety  
12 for children and their families; and

13 WHEREAS, therapy dogs undertake a wide range of tasks in clinical settings including but  
14 not limited to easing patient fears prior to surgery, motivating children who undergo  
15 rehabilitation, and distracting children from painful treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Canines For Kids Program has been  
17 recognized nationally for its success, and other children's hospitals across the country are  
18 seeking to replicate the program; and

19 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is a nation-wide leader and model for the  
20 holistic treatment and care of pediatric patients by focusing on the emotional, physical,  
21 mental, and spiritual needs.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
23 recognize and commend the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta therapy dogs known as  
24 "Canines For Kids."

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
26 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Children's  
27 Healthcare of Atlanta.