

Senate Resolution 1003

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Stone of the 23rd, Tillery of the 19th, Anderson of the 24th,  
Kirk of the 13th and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center and honoring  
2 Executive Director Carol V. Donaldson; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) was created  
4 in 1992 for the purpose of improving the community at large by providing prevention,  
5 intervention, and aftercare services to all child victims of abuse, nonoffending parents and  
6 caretakers, agencies, and professionals within the Middle Judicial Circuit of Candler,  
7 Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs, and Washington counties; and

8 WHEREAS, the Sunshine House CAC is governed by a volunteer board of directors, among  
9 whom is Carol V. Donaldson, who has served as executive director of the center for 21 years;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the center provides professionals with the advanced training they require in  
12 order to conduct forensic interviews and medical examinations at the request of law  
13 enforcement agencies and the Division of Family and Children Services; and

14 WHEREAS, crisis counseling and therapy are provided by licensed professionals in a  
15 nonthreatening and child friendly environment, allowing children to remain the focus of  
16 investigations while simultaneously reducing trauma in those who have been physically,  
17 sexually, or emotionally abused, as well as those who have had the misfortune of witnessing  
18 extreme violence; and

19 WHEREAS, the CAC's multidisciplinary teams work efficiently so that children's cases do  
20 not "fall through the cracks," while the children in question are able to receive resources that  
21 will aid in reducing their trauma and that will support the investigation of their cases, all at  
22 no cost to their families; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2017, 259 new children and over 500 individuals received services from the  
24 Sunshine House CAC, and, to date, more than 6,220 new primary victims and their families  
25 have been seen for services there; and

26 WHEREAS, among the members of the Executive Committee at Sunshine House CAC are  
27 H. Wilder Smith Jr., Jean Schwabe, G.W. Johnson, Jr., and Carole T. Youmans; and

28 WHEREAS, on average, 350 children are seen each year by the Sunshine House CAC, and  
29 more than 400 children are receiving counseling and therapy from the four licensed clinical  
30 professionals on staff today; and

31 WHEREAS, of the children seen at the Sunshine House CAC, 85 percent have been sexually  
32 abused and 30 percent of those are under the age of six; and

33 WHEREAS, in light of these tragic facts, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the efforts  
34 of this center and its staff toward protecting children who have been the victims of abuse be  
35 appropriately recognized.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
37 recognize the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center and honor Executive  
38 Director Carol V. Donaldson.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Sunshine House  
41 Regional Children's Advocacy Center and Executive Director Carol V. Donaldson.