

House Resolution 978

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Nguyen of the 89th, and Shannon of the 84th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Tori Cooper for her outstanding contributions as an advocate
2 for marginalized people and their health; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Tori Cooper has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for over 25
4 years of experience in the HIV field, first serving as a volunteer near the beginning of the
5 epidemic; and

6 WHEREAS, she has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of her time,
7 talents, and energy toward the betterment of her community and state as evidenced
8 dramatically by her superlative service with Advocates for Better Care Atlanta, LLC (ABC
9 Atlanta) as its founder and consultant; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2015, Tori created ABC Atlanta for the education and empowerment of
11 marginalized people across the country; she self-finances this agency which provides
12 capacity building, education, travel stipends, utility assistance, and cellphone and rent
13 payments; and

14 WHEREAS, this distinguished citizen has given inspiration to many through her high ideals,
15 morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens, and she possesses the vast wisdom which
16 only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved through
17 overcoming the many challenges of life; and

18 WHEREAS, Tori is a co-author and national trainer for the CDC's new TWIST intervention,
19 the first of its kind, specifically for transgender women living with HIV, and she is a
20 national, regional, and local trainer for NMAC's BLOC program; and

21 WHEREAS, she is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) and the first transgender woman certified
22 by the CDC as Lead Facilitator of the WILLOW intervention; and

23 WHEREAS, she serves on several boards and community groups, including Atlanta Mayor
24 Keisha Lance-Bottom's LGBTQ Advisory Board, the boards of SisterLove, Inc., Project
25 Affirm, AAOI, the Clayton County HIV Consortium, and the Transgender Law Center; and

26 WHEREAS, Tori has received numerous awards for her work and is a published author and
27 appears in print and video for NBC News, *Huffington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The*
28 *Washington Post*, and *The Advocate*; and

29 WHEREAS, her work is featured in two documentaries titled *Silent Epidemic* and *Hidden*
30 *Epidemic* about the trans community and HIV in the south; and

31 WHEREAS, Tori Cooper's vision and unyielding commitment to the HIV and transgender
32 communities has set the standard in public health; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
34 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body recognize and commend Tori Cooper for her effective, unselfish,
37 and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and extend the most sincere best wishes
38 for continued success.

39 BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is
40 authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for
41 distribution to Tori Cooper.