

House Resolution 1026

By: Representatives Wilensky of the 79th, Henson of the 86th, Gravley of the 67th, Silcox of the 52nd, Momtahan of the 17th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of February 3rd as Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week in
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, everyone is a carrier for a number of genetic diseases, and there are certain
4 genetic diseases that are more common in certain ethnicities; and

5 WHEREAS, Jewish people are among the ethnic groups at high risk for certain genetic
6 diseases, some of which cause early death or severely debilitating symptoms. Non-Jewish
7 people can also be carriers of these and other genetic diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, genetic screening is recommended for any couple thinking of starting or
9 expanding their family; and

10 WHEREAS, carriers are healthy individuals who unknowingly have a mutation in a disease
11 gene. They do not have symptoms, thus the only way they can know if they are a carrier is
12 to get tested or to have an affected child; and

13 WHEREAS, carrier couples have a 25 percent risk, with each pregnancy, of having a child
14 affected by the genetic disease they both carry; and

15 WHEREAS, many couples are only offered genetic testing once they are already pregnant
16 and for a limited number of diseases. Educating the community about the importance of
17 comprehensive preconception screening is essential to afford couples more options to plan
18 ahead; and

19 WHEREAS, Jewish people are also at higher risk to have mutations in genes (e.g., BRCA)
20 that increase the risk for certain cancers, and knowing those risks can be lifesaving; and

21 WHEREAS, genetic screening is now easily accessible to those in Georgia and nationwide
22 via at-home screening on saliva.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize the week of February 3rd as Jewish Genetic Screening
25 Awareness Week in Georgia.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
28 public and the press.