

House Resolution 1044

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Ralston of the 7th, Oliver of the 82nd, England of the 116th, Dreyer of the 59th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dawn Alford; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest citizens and most dedicated advocates
3 with the tragic passing of Dawn Alford, who lost her life unexpectedly on July 22, 2019, at
4 the age of 41; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Dawn Alford served as the public policy director and as an educator at the state
6 capitol building for the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities; and
- 7 WHEREAS, she was an extraordinary advocate for people with disabilities and fought so that
8 all Georgians with disabilities could live full and meaningful lives in the community; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Dawn Alford advocated for the promise upheld by the United States Supreme
10 Court's Olmstead decision, which determined that people with disabilities have the right to
11 live in their communities rather than in nursing homes or institutions; and
- 12 WHEREAS, born on July 27, 1977, in Carroll County, Georgia, she excelled in her early
13 academics, graduating as valedictorian of Temple High School before graduating *magna cum*
14 *laude* from Georgia Tech with a degree in chemical engineering; and
- 15 WHEREAS, after graduation, Dawn Alford began to visit nursing homes and build
16 relationships with people while advocating for them to return to the community; she spent
17 her remaining years tirelessly advocating at the state capitol building, creating contacts and
18 friendships throughout state government and the advocacy community; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Dawn Alford will long be remembered for having lived a joyful life of faith and
20 love for God, her friends, her family, and her fellow advocates.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Dawn Alford and express their most
23 sincere condolences at her passing.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
26 family of Dawn Alford.