

House Resolution 1293

By: Representatives Bonner of the 72nd, Mathiak of the 73rd, Singleton of the 71st, Bazemore of the 63rd, and Jackson of the 64th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Bloom Our Youth, a licensed child welfare agency; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Bloom Our Youth was founded in 1986 by concerned Fayette County citizens
3 led by Jim Friday to care for neglected, abandoned, and abused youth who were in need of
4 protection, shelter, and care; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Bloom opened its first group home in 1989 and cared for hundreds of needy
6 young people over the years; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Bloom recognized the need to provide community-based homes for Georgia's
8 increasing foster care population and created the Bloom Foster Parent Program to recruit,
9 train, and oversee foster families; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 2008, Bloom created The Bloom Closet, an innovative program that
11 addresses the specific needs of youth in foster care by providing free clothing and supplies
12 in its boutique-like resource center. The Bloom Closet currently provides clothing and
13 necessities for 4,500 foster children from 90 Georgia counties; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 2015, Bloom recognized the complex and therapeutic needs of youth in foster
15 care and became licensed to begin caring for medically fragile and therapeutic foster children
16 as well as pregnant or parenting foster teen girls; and
- 17 WHEREAS, in 2017, Bloom launched a new program, called "Bloom University," which
18 trains and equips foster families to care for traumatized children; and
- 19 WHEREAS, over the last four years, the Bloom Foster Care program has more than doubled
20 its capacity, all while maintaining an A+ rating from the State of Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, Bloom was singled out as the "most outstanding foster care agency in Georgia"
22 by Together Georgia for demonstrating excellence in service to children; and

23 WHEREAS, Bloom recently completed a new 2020–2022 Strategic Plan of Action, which
24 focuses on propelling Bloom's programs forward to comply with the federal Families First
25 Act while supporting the vision that "every child has a safe, nurturing family."

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body commend Bloom Our Youth for 30 years of excellence in serving
28 the foster children of Georgia, their biological families, and their foster families.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
31 Executive Director Becky Davenport, the members of the board, their staff, and Bloom's
32 supporters.