

## Senate Resolution 182

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Dolezal of the 27th, Brass of the 6th, Anderson of the 24th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the impact of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and  
2 Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), community service boards (CSBs), and first  
3 responders; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 2022, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 403, known as the  
5 Georgia Behavioral Health and Peace Officer Co-Responder Act, establishing the framework  
6 for Co-Responder programs, which bring together law enforcement officers and behavioral  
7 health professionals to respond to mental health crises; and

8 WHEREAS, Co-Responder programs have since demonstrated their commitment and  
9 passion for assisting individuals in crisis, effectively intervening in behavioral health-related  
10 calls for service, diverting individuals from unnecessary incarceration, and improving access  
11 to behavioral health services while enhancing public safety; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
13 (DBHDD) has played a key role in supporting the implementation and coordination of  
14 Co-Responder teams through collaboration with first responders, community service boards,  
15 and behavioral health providers; and

16 WHEREAS, these programs have contributed to better outcomes for individuals in crisis by  
17 facilitating appropriate treatment, reducing strain on law enforcement resources, and  
18 strengthening collaboration between public safety agencies and mental health professionals  
19 to collectively respond to crises within local communities throughout the State of Georgia;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, maintaining and expanding these efforts will further strengthen Georgia's  
22 response to behavioral health crises, redirect individuals from undesirable outcomes, promote  
23 collaboration at the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health, recognize that  
24 recovery is possible through early intervention and deflection, and improve the efficiency of  
25 public safety and emergency services.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 commend the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and  
28 local Co-Responder programs for their role in responding to mental health crises as well as  
29 acknowledge the importance of their continued operation throughout the state.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize February 19, 2025,  
31 as Co-Responder Day at the state capitol to highlight the ongoing efforts of these programs  
32 in enhancing crisis response and public safety.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
35 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, law enforcement agencies  
36 and community service boards within the State of Georgia, the public, and the press.