

## House Resolution 252

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, McCollum of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, and Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>

## 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body commend the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and  
28 Developmental Disabilities and local Co-Responder programs for their role in responding  
29 to mental health crises as well as acknowledge the importance of their continued operation  
30 throughout the state.

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

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