

House Resolution 575

By: Representative Lupton of the 83rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Moving in the Spirit; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Moving in the Spirit was founded in 1986 by Dana Lupton, Leah Mann, and
3 Genee Stewart to empower underserved youth through dance, growing from a single class
4 for 25 girls into an award-winning creative youth development program; and

5 WHEREAS, throughout its 39-year history, Moving in the Spirit has impacted more than
6 5,000 children through its programs and inspired tens of thousands more through workshops
7 and performances, forging key partnerships with organizations such as the Atlanta Children's
8 Shelter, Boys & Girls Clubs of Atlanta, and KIPP Atlanta Schools; and

9 WHEREAS, the organization has earned national recognition, including being honored at a
10 2005 White House ceremony hosted by First Lady Laura Bush and performing for Liberian
11 President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2021, Moving in the Spirit opened a \$10 million performing arts center at
13 MARTA's Edgewood/Candler Park development, establishing a permanent home to further
14 its mission of transforming lives through the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, its measurable impact includes a 96 percent increase in student confidence, with
16 100 percent of seniors graduating high school and pursuing higher education, vocational
17 training, or military service; and

18 WHEREAS, alumni of Moving in the Spirit have gone on to excel in diverse careers,
19 including Broadway, public health, education, and civic leadership, with many attributing
20 their success to the confidence, discipline, and creativity instilled by the program; and

21 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable organization be
22 appropriately honored during this special time.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body commend Moving in the Spirit for its decades of outstanding
25 contributions to youth development through the arts and extend best wishes for continued
26 success.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
29 Moving in the Spirit.