

House Resolution 1007

By: Representatives Jones of the 25th, Oliver of the 84th, Schofield of the 63rd, Dempsey of the 13th, O’Steen of the 169th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Acknowledging the effectiveness of arts for health initiatives in improving mental health
2 outcomes; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing a mental health crisis, as reported by the
4 Kaiser Family Foundation, which found that 90 percent of Americans are facing increased
5 mental health challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, one in five adults over the age of 50 across the country experience a mental
7 health condition, substance use disorder, or both, according to the Substance Abuse and
8 Mental Health Services Administration; and

9 WHEREAS, the prevalence of symptoms of anxiety and depression in Georgia stands at 33.9
10 percent, outpacing the national rate of 32.3 percent, as reported by the Kaiser Family
11 Foundation; and

12 WHEREAS, participation in the arts has been recognized globally as a significant resource
13 for promoting mental health and well-being as well as reducing feelings and experiences of
14 social isolation and loneliness; and

15 WHEREAS, arts for health initiatives have emerged as clinically validated interventions for
16 addressing symptoms of stress, trauma, anxiety, and related mental health concerns; and

17 WHEREAS, arts for health initiatives, as a trauma-informed practice, have been shown to
18 reduce symptoms of stress, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), improve
19 emotional regulation, and provide an accessible outlet for individuals and communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense have integrated
21 creative arts therapists into treatment programs for PTSD among veterans and military
22 personnel; and

23 WHEREAS, increased access to mental health resources through community-based arts
24 interventions and arts for health initiatives may have benefits for public safety by addressing
25 mental illness and potentially reducing harmful and violent behaviors; and

26 WHEREAS, arts for health initiatives not only support individual mental health but also
27 enhance the well-being of healthcare professionals by fostering creative innovation, reducing
28 burnout, and improving emotional resilience; and

29 WHEREAS, healthcare professionals experiencing improved mental health and well-being
30 are better equipped to provide compassionate, patient-centered care, thereby improving
31 overall healthcare quality and outcomes; and

32 WHEREAS, integrating arts-based practices into healthcare environments can create
33 supportive spaces that mitigate stress and promote collaboration among care teams,
34 ultimately strengthening the healthcare system's capacity to respond to crises and sustain
35 workforce vitality; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the importance and impact of
37 arts for health initiatives on wellness outcomes for citizens in the State of Georgia and
38 beyond.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body acknowledge the essential role of artists, arts organizations, art
41 therapists, and arts for health initiatives in supporting recovery from trauma, addressing
42 mental health concerns and conditions, building community resilience, and increasing public
43 safety.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 public and the press.