

Senate Resolution 568

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Payne of the 54th, Watson of the 1st, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Dickerson of the 21st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's facility dogs and their Canines For Kids
2 Program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is Georgia's leading pediatric healthcare
4 provider and cares for kids from all 159 counties in the state; and

5 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Canines For Kids Program was established
6 in 2009, the first program of its kind in the country; and

7 WHEREAS, facility dogs undergo a comprehensive and intensive training process for a
8 duration of 18 months; and

9 WHEREAS, each hospital-based facility dog has a Children's employee handler who is
10 responsible for caring and managing the dog; and

11 WHEREAS, the facility dogs and trained handlers work as a team to provide comfort,
12 support, and distraction for young patients during procedures and hospitalizations; and

13 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta employs 16 full-time facility dogs at the Arthur
14 M. Blank, Scottish Rite, Hughes Spalding Hospitals and the Zalik Behavioral and Mental
15 Health Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Children's facility dogs bring joy, companionship, and love to our patients,
17 families, and staff; and

18 WHEREAS, Canines For Kids is a goal-directed program that helps patients cope, heal and
19 achieve treatment goals to ensure Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is doing everything
20 possible to make anything possible for kids.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 recognize Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Canines For Kids Program.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Children's
25 Healthcare of Atlanta's Canines For Kids Program.