

House Resolution 1031

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45th, Dempsey of the 13th, Taylor of the 173rd, and Fleming of the 114th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending 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, and Hughes Spalding hospitals as well as the Zalik Behavioral and
15 Mental Health Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Children's facility dogs provide joy, companionship, and love for countless
17 patients, 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 the members of this body commend Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Canines For Kids
23 Program and extend best wishes for continued success.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
26 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.