

House Resolution 1124

By: Representatives Kahaian of the 81st, Stinson of the 150th, Martinez of the 111th, Reeves of the 99th, Griffin of the 149th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 17, 2026, as Blood Plasma Donation Awareness Day in Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the lives of millions of individuals are heavily reliant on life-saving therapies
4 derived from human blood plasma, emphasizing the need for a robust and inclusive blood
5 plasma collection infrastructure; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States is home to a vast network of United States Food and Drug
7 Administration licensed blood plasma donation centers, which collectively facilitated over
8 493 million plasma donations from 2007 to 2021, underscoring the critical role these centers
9 play in supporting healthcare in this country; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately 33 million liters of blood plasma are meticulously fractionated
11 each year, yielding essential therapeutic plasma proteins vital for a wide range of medical
12 treatments, including emergencies related to uncontrollable bleeding, autoimmune disorders,
13 sickle cell disease, and various chronic conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, the demand for therapies derived from blood plasma has surged dramatically
15 over the past two decades, driven by advancements in diagnosing rare diseases, elevated

16 standards of patient care, and enhanced patient access to innovative treatments, further
17 highlighting the need for increased representation in blood plasma collection efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMPs) are indispensable in managing
19 urgent health crises tied to bleeding, autoimmune conditions, sickle cell disease, and chronic
20 health issues, and play crucial roles in treating patients with rare and life-threatening
21 illnesses, such as primary immunodeficiencies and hemophilia; and

22 WHEREAS, millions of donations are made annually at blood plasma collection centers
23 throughout the United States, revealing the essential contribution these local collection sites
24 make within the healthcare framework of this country and state and the pressing need for
25 more diverse representation in the industry; and

26 WHEREAS, the global blood plasma market has achieved remarkable financial growth,
27 reaching approximately \$30 billion in 2022, a significant increase from just over \$5 billion
28 in 2000, highlighting the enormous economic potential embedded within the plasma industry;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a chronic, incurable genetic blood disease that
31 disproportionately affects individuals of African descent, with approximately 100,000 people
32 in the United States and over 11,000 people in this state living with the condition; and

33 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is most prevalent among individuals of African descent, with
34 approximately 90 percent of those affected identifying as such, emphasizing the significant
35 impact of this disease on communities of color; and

36 WHEREAS, therapeutic plasma exchange has been recognized as a potentially useful
37 treatment in resolving complications of sickle cell disease, including acute chest syndrome
38 and hepatic crisis, highlighting the critical need for accessible and inclusive blood plasma
39 collection infrastructure; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, an African American pioneering figure in modern
41 blood banking and twentieth-century medicine, revolutionized blood plasma donation and
42 storage processes, fundamentally shaping the field as it is known today, and his legacy serves
43 as a powerful reminder of the importance of integration and representation in the medical
44 field; and

45 WHEREAS, despite the significant contributions of individuals of African descent who
46 comprise over 86 percent of blood plasma donations nation wide, there are currently no
47 plasma collection centers owned by individuals from this demographic in this state, a glaring
48 disparity that underscores the need for awareness to promote a more representative blood
49 plasma industry that reflects the communities it serves.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
51 the members of this body recognize February 17, 2026, as Blood Plasma Donation
52 Awareness Day in Georgia.

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