

House Resolution 1180

By: Representative O'Steen of the 169th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7-14, 2026, as congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the health and well being of all children throughout Georgia are of paramount
4 importance the our families and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including
6 approximately 40,000 children in the United States who begin life with one of more than 35
7 identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

8 WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are among Georgia's most common birth defect and
9 they can be fatal due to their seriousness, insufficient medical intervention options, and the
10 limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

11 WHEREAS, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily
12 identifiable and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously thanks to doctors'
13 and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of
14 knowledge every day; and

15 WHEREAS, there is much to learn about the causes of and the effective treatments for
16 congenital heart defects and it is important for parents, pediatricians, and nurses to recognize
17 the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may
18 provide proper treatment as early as possible; and

19 WHEREAS, many of Georgia's families and communities are directly or indirectly affected
20 by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects, and the state of Georgia
21 applauds the efforts of doctors and scientists everywhere who work diligently to solve life's
22 medical mysteries and to improve the quality of life for us all; and

23 WHEREAS, Ben Abram Lingenfelter, born August 3, 2002, with Transposition of the Great
24 Arteries, endured open heart surgery during his first week of life in August, Georgia, and
25 eventually survived three more open heart surgeries; and

26 WHEREAS, Ben graduated from the University of Georgia in December 2025, and created
27 the Miracle Child Heart Foundation to help kids and young adults through the many physical,
28 mental, and spiritual challenges of surviving multiple surgeries.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize February 7-14, 2026, as Congenital Heart Defects
31 Awareness Week.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 Lingenfelter family.