

## Senate Resolution 963

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Setzler of the 37th, Albers of the 56th, Howard of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care  
2 Unit; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center currently operates a Level  
4 III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) designed to care for premature and medically  
5 complex newborns through advanced respiratory support, continuous monitoring, and  
6 life-saving interventions; and

7 WHEREAS, the NICU at Wellstar Kennestone is staffed by neonatologists, neonatal nurses,  
8 respiratory therapists, and pediatric specialists who dedicate innumerable hours of their time,  
9 energy, and expertise toward ensuring that our most vulnerable Georgians receive the best  
10 medical care possible; and

11 WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 10 percent of all babies are born before 37  
12 weeks of gestation, and prematurity is one of the leading global causes of infant illness and  
13 death; and

14 WHEREAS, prompt NICU care significantly improves survival outcomes and substantially  
15 reduces mortality during the first week of life for vulnerable newborns, especially for those  
16 born very prematurely or at an extremely low birth weight; and

17 WHEREAS, through the continued dedication of NICU healthcare professionals and  
18 advancements in neonatal medicine, survival rates for infants born between roughly 22 and  
19 28 weeks of gestation have increased significantly in recent years, approaching nearly 78  
20 percent; and

21 WHEREAS, NICU healthcare professionals further provide crucial information, reassurance,  
22 and security for parents of premature infants, reducing the inherent stress of newborn  
23 hospitalization and assuaging associated feelings of guilt, shock, and helplessness; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this exemplary neonatal unit and its  
25 exceptional employees be appropriately honored during this special time for the vital care  
26 they provide to our most critical youth.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 commend the Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
29 and its committed healthcare professionals for their service on behalf of this state's premature  
30 infants and extend best wishes for continued success in their mission to save lives.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Wellstar  
33 Kennestone Regional Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.