

House Resolution 1728

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Hugley of the 141st, Efstration of the 104th, Donatucci of the 105th, Park of the 107th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Haven House for its critical service to pregnant women and young mothers in
2 the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, access to safe housing, nutritious food, prenatal care, and a stable, supportive
4 environment are widely recognized by public health experts as essential factors for healthy
5 pregnancy outcomes and maternal survival; and

6 WHEREAS, extensive research demonstrates that housing instability during pregnancy is
7 associated with significantly higher rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, neonatal
8 intensive care unit admission, and delivery complications; and

9 WHEREAS, access to healthy food and basic necessities during pregnancy is a critical
10 determinant of maternal and infant health, and federal nutrition programs such as the Special
11 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the
12 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) play an important role in reducing food
13 insecurity and improving health outcomes for mothers and infants; and

14 WHEREAS, access to health coverage through Georgia Medicaid ensures pregnant women
15 receive essential prenatal care, screenings, and treatment that can prevent complications and
16 support healthy births; and

17 WHEREAS, Haven House, a maternity supportive housing residence serving women across
18 Georgia, works directly with residents to ensure they receive critical public benefits, with
19 100 percent of both current and former residents successfully enrolled in Family Medicaid,
20 WIC, and SNAP, and staff actively assisting residents with applications for the Childcare and
21 Parent Services Program (CAPS) to support long-term stability and workforce participation;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Haven House serves a uniquely vulnerable population, with 90 percent of
24 residents having previously experienced foster care, approximately 80 percent having aged
25 out of the foster care system, and 90 percent of residents having survived human trafficking,
26 making the availability of safe, trauma-informed housing especially vital; and

27 WHEREAS, Haven House is among the only maternity supportive housing residences in
28 Georgia willing to accept women facing complex or urgent circumstances, including women
29 in their third trimester, women experiencing pregnancy complications, women with learning
30 disabilities or special needs, women who may not yet have stable transportation or
31 employment, and women who have not previously been enrolled in Medicaid prior to
32 entering the program; and

33 WHEREAS, maternal health data shows that the percentage of births with late or no prenatal
34 care increased nationally from 6.3 percent in 2021 to 7.3 percent in 2024, while Georgia
35 experienced a significantly higher rise from 7.9 percent to 11.4 percent, underscoring the
36 need for community-based solutions that ensure early and consistent care; and

37 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Maternal Mortality
38 Review Committee report that maternal deaths in Georgia continue to rise and that 87 percent
39 of pregnancy-related deaths in the state are considered preventable, often linked to social
40 factors such as housing instability, food insecurity, delayed medical care, and chronic stress;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, Haven House utilizes the evidence-based Trust-Based Relational Intervention
43 (TBRI) model to provide trauma-informed care, with two certified TBRI practitioners on
44 staff, including a Licensed Master Social Worker who provides in-house counseling and
45 skill-building support for residents; and

46 WHEREAS, organizations such as Haven House address these critical social determinants
47 of health by providing safe housing, access to nutritious food, trauma-informed care, and
48 assistance navigating essential public programs that improve maternal and infant health
49 outcomes.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
51 the members of this body recognize and commend Haven House for its extraordinary service
52 to pregnant women and young mothers in Georgia and for its commitment to improving
53 maternal and infant health outcomes through compassionate care, stable housing, and
54 connection to vital public resources.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
56 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
57 Haven House.