

## Senate Resolution 975

By: Senators Harrell of the 40th, Watson of the 1st, Davenport of the 17th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Echols of the 49th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the March of Dimes and recognizing March 10, 2026, as March of Dimes  
2 March for Change at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants  
4 and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant and  
5 maternal mortality; and

6 WHEREAS, founded in 1938 to fight polio, the March of Dimes funded the development of  
7 two vaccines that virtually eliminated the crippling disease, and in 1958, after having  
8 achieved its initial mission, the organization shifted its attention from polio to the prevention  
9 of preterm birth, the greatest contributing factor to newborns dying within their first month  
10 of life; and

11 WHEREAS, over 14,907 preterm births occurred in Georgia in 2024, a figure which  
12 represents one in every nine babies born in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, of the maternal deaths reviewed from 2020 to 2022, 141 deaths were  
14 determined to be pregnancy-related, and 87 percent of those pregnancy-related deaths were  
15 deemed preventable; and

16 WHEREAS, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes will be at the capitol on March 10,  
17 2026, to raise awareness among legislators about the serious consequences of preterm birth  
18 and infant and maternal mortality as well as to advocate for policies to address these  
19 significant public health challenges.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
21 commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless volunteers for their past, present,  
22 and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this state, throughout the nation, and  
23 around the world and recognize March 10, 2026, as March of Dimes March for Change at  
24 the state capitol.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
26 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the March of  
27 Dimes in Georgia.