

House Resolution 1819

By: Representative Cannon of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Birth Responders and proclaiming May 8, 2026, as Birth
2 Responders Day; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Birth Responders is an innovative maternal response and wellness model
4 founded by Safira Zayas to address the urgent need for compassionate, culturally responsive,
5 and specialized maternal transport, emergency support, and wellness services for women and
6 families in both rural and urban communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Birth Responders was born from Safira Zayas's lived experience, professional
8 training, and unwavering commitment to reproductive justice, maternal wellness, and the
9 preservation of life, particularly for women and infants affected by longstanding disparities
10 in maternal health outcomes; and

11 WHEREAS, Safira Zayas is a devoted mother of four adult children, grandmother of six
12 grandchildren, and a multifaceted healthcare and wellness professional whose work has been
13 shaped by her service as a reproductive justice advocate, doula, traditional midwife, massage
14 therapist, and emergency medical technician; and

15 WHEREAS, through years of service to mothers, babies, and families, Safira Zayas
16 recognized a critical gap in emergency maternal support systems and responded by
17 envisioning a model that bridges pre-hospital care, maternal transport, birth support, neonatal
18 resuscitation awareness, infant CPR education, and holistic wellness services; and

19 WHEREAS, Birth Responders represents a pioneering and much-needed niche in community
20 care by combining maternal health advocacy, birth worker knowledge, emergency medical
21 response, and family-centered support into a model designed to improve outcomes and
22 restore dignity, safety, and trust for women during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum
23 recovery, and maternal crisis; and

24 WHEREAS, Birth Responders is also committed to building a workforce pathway for
25 women, doulas, midwives, and other birth workers by creating meaningful opportunities for
26 training, certification, leadership, and economic empowerment, with the goal of improving
27 not only maternal health outcomes but also the quality of life and long-term stability of
28 families and communities; and

29 WHEREAS, by developing a workforce rooted in compassion, cultural understanding, and
30 specialized maternal care, Birth Responders seeks to open doors for women to transform
31 their gifts into sustainable careers that strengthen households, create generational
32 opportunity, and expand the maternal health support system throughout Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, the mission of Birth Responders is especially significant in the State of Georgia,
34 where families in underserved communities, including rural areas and historically
35 marginalized populations, continue to face barriers to timely maternal care, transportation
36 access, emergency response, and culturally responsive support; and

37 WHEREAS, Birth Responders further advances education, prevention, and preparedness by
38 promoting maternal wellness, infant safety, neonatal resuscitation support, and infant CPR
39 awareness, thereby strengthening emergency response capacity as well as family and
40 community resilience; and

41 WHEREAS, Safira Zayas has dedicated her life's work to ensuring that no woman feels
42 unseen, unsupported, or unprotected during one of the most vulnerable and sacred times of
43 her life, and Birth Responders stands as a reflection of her vision, courage, innovation, and
44 service to the people of Georgia; and

45 WHEREAS, the establishment of Birth Responders Day would recognize not only the launch
46 of a groundbreaking maternal response initiative, but also the importance of protecting
47 mothers, supporting infants, uplifting families, creating workforce opportunities for women
48 birth workers, and advancing safer birth outcomes throughout Georgia and beyond.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
50 the members of this body recognize and honor Birth Responders for its visionary and
51 compassionate contribution to maternal health, emergency response, and workforce
52 development in the State of Georgia.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that May 8, 2026, is hereby proclaimed as Birth Responders
54 Day in honor of the launch of Birth Responders and in celebration of the vision, service, and
55 leadership of Safira Zayas.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
57 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Safira
58 Zayas and Birth Responders.