

House Resolution 1878

By: Representatives Lupton of the 83rd and Holcomb of the 101st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the important role Georgia's forensic nurses play in supporting survivors of
2 violence and making our community safer from violence as well as declaring November 2
3 through 8, 2026, Forensic Nurses Week; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, forensic nurses empower patients who are victims of violence to seek healing
5 and justice as they choose; and

6 WHEREAS, violence is a persistent health care issue, and forensic nurses are the bridge
7 between the medical and legal needs of patients; and

8 WHEREAS, patients who experience violence sustain physical injuries, as well as acute and
9 chronic physical and mental health conditions, including sexually transmitted infections,
10 HIV, substance misuse, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation; and

11 WHEREAS, the health consequences of violence cost hospitals in the United States
12 approximately \$18.2 billion annually; and

13 WHEREAS, forensic nurses are essential to Georgia's health care because they provide
14 trauma-informed nursing care that focuses on patient populations affected by violence and

15 trauma, including victims and perpetrators of violent crimes, across the lifespan and in
16 diverse practice settings; and

17 WHEREAS, forensic nursing has been formally recognized as a specialty practice area since
18 1995; and

19 WHEREAS, forensic nurses work independently, yet collaboratively, within health care and
20 multidisciplinary community systems ensuring the provision of care extends from the clinical
21 setting to the courtroom; and

22 WHEREAS, forensic nursing encompasses caring for diverse patient populations, including
23 patients who have experienced sexual assault or abuse, intimate or interpersonal violence,
24 elder and child maltreatment, human trafficking and accidental as well as nonaccidental
25 trauma, in roles that include sexual assault nurse examiner, forensic nurse examiner, death
26 investigator, correctional nurse, forensic psychiatric nurse, legal nurse consultant, forensic
27 geriatric specialist, nurse attorney, forensic nursing educators, and forensic clinical nurse
28 specialists; and

29 WHEREAS, forensic nurses foster an understanding of the health consequences, effective
30 interventions, and prevention of violence and trauma in individuals, families, and
31 communities; and

32 WHEREAS, forensic nurses work in partnership with multidisciplinary stakeholders,
33 including Tribal organizations, advocacy, law enforcement, military branches, and legal
34 counsel.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body acknowledge that forensic nursing is more relevant now than ever
37 before, as this specialty practice evolves to address the gaps in health care related to effective
38 violence intervention, reduction of long-term health consequences, and prevention; honor
39 forensic nurses for their commitment to providing evidence-based, compassionate,
40 trauma-informed care encompassing the entire scope of nursing practice; reaffirm their
41 commitment to working alongside forensic nurses to further their contributions to improve
42 health outcomes for patients experiencing violence; and declare November 2 through 8,
43 2026, Forensic Nurses Week.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 public and the press.