

## House Resolution 156

By: Representatives Welch of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Smith of the 70<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the March of Dimes and recognizing February 7, 2019, as March of Dimes  
2 Day 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  
5 mortality; and

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

11 WHEREAS, nearly half a million babies are born preterm every year in the United States,  
12 and over 14,716 preterm births occurred in Georgia in 2017, a figure which represents one  
13 in every nine babies born in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, these dire statistics were a major reason for Georgia's receiving a grade of "D"  
15 in a 2018 report by the March of Dimes on premature birth rates among the states in the  
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the  
18 nation with 79 deaths occurring in 2013; and

19 WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is committed to reducing the number of maternal deaths  
20 in the state through proven prevention methods and education; and

21 WHEREAS, volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes will be at the capitol on February  
22 7, 2019, to raise awareness among legislators about the serious consequences of preterm birth  
23 and to advocate for policies to address this significant public health challenge.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
25 the members of this body commend the efforts of the March of Dimes and its selfless  
26 volunteers for their past, present, and future work on behalf of mothers and babies in this  
27 state, throughout the nation, and around the world and recognize February 7, 2019, as March  
28 of Dimes Day at the state capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
31 March of Dimes Georgia Chapter.