

## House Resolution 1253

By: Representatives Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, and Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center and honoring  
2 Executive Director Carol V. Donaldson; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) was created  
4 in 1992 for the purpose of improving the community at large by providing prevention,  
5 intervention, and aftercare services to all child victims of abuse, nonoffending parents and  
6 caretakers, agencies, and professionals within the Middle Judicial Circuit of Candler,  
7 Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs, and Washington counties; and

8 WHEREAS, the Sunshine House CAC is governed by a volunteer board of directors, among  
9 whom is Carol V. Donaldson, who has served as Executive Director of the center for  
10 21 years; and

11 WHEREAS, the center provides professionals with the advanced training they require in  
12 order to conduct forensic interviews and medical examinations at the request of law  
13 enforcement agencies and the Division of Family and Children Services; and

14 WHEREAS, crisis counseling and therapy are provided by licensed professionals in a  
15 nonthreatening and child-friendly environment, allowing children to remain the focus of  
16 investigations while simultaneously reducing trauma in those who have been physically,  
17 sexually, or emotionally abused, as well as those who have had the misfortune of witnessing  
18 extreme violence; and

19 WHEREAS, the CAC's multidisciplinary teams work efficiently so that children's cases do  
20 not "fall through the cracks," while the children in question are able to receive resources that  
21 will aid in reducing their trauma and that will support the investigation of their cases, all at  
22 no cost to their families; and

23 WHEREAS, on average, 350 children are seen each year by the Sunshine House CAC, and  
24 more than 400 children are receiving counseling and therapy from the four licensed clinical  
25 professionals on staff today; and

26 WHEREAS, of the children seen at the Sunshine House CAC, 85 percent have been sexually  
27 abused and 30 percent of those are under the age of six; and

28 WHEREAS, in light of these tragic facts, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the efforts  
29 of this center and its staff toward protecting children who have been the victims of abuse be  
30 appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize the Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy  
33 Center and honor Executive Director Carol V. Donaldson.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 Sunshine House Regional Children's Advocacy Center and Executive Director Carol V.  
37 Donaldson.