

House Resolution 1425

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59th, Silcox of the 52nd, Frye of the 118th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Willard of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Frank S. Alexander, Esq., co-founder of the Center for
2 Community Progress, for his lifetime of accomplishments and community service; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Frank S. Alexander, Esq., has been a professor at Emory University's
5 School of Law for 37 years, starting in 1981, and is currently Sam Nunn Professor of Law
6 at the law school, where he also serves as director of the Project on Affordable Housing and
7 Community Development; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander received both a juris doctor degree from Harvard Law School
9 and a master's degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School in 1978 and holds
10 a bachelor of arts degree from the University of North Carolina; and

11 WHEREAS, as a long-time advocate of affordable housing and alleviating homelessness, he
12 has served as a fellow of the Carter Center of Emory University, where he has specialized
13 in neighborhood redevelopment activities and low-income housing in conjunction with The
14 Atlanta Project from 1993 to 1996, as a commissioner of the State Housing Trust Fund for
15 the Homeless from 1994 to 1998, and as a member of the Atlanta City Council Task Force
16 on Gentrification from 2000 to 2002; he then served as interim dean of Emory University's
17 School of Law from 2005 to 2006 and as visiting fellow at the Joint Center for Housing
18 Studies, Harvard University, in the fall semester of 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, he testified before Congress concerning the mortgage foreclosure crisis in May,
20 2008, and November, 2009; and

21 WHEREAS, he was the principal draftsman of numerous Georgia statutes focused on
22 equitable real property law and policy, including the 1995 judicial in rem tax foreclosure
23 statute, the 2002 Georgia Fair Lending Act, and the 2012 Georgia Land Bank Act; and

24 WHEREAS, he is the recipient of the George A. Pindar Award, Real Property Law Section,
25 State Bar of Georgia (2006), the Inspiration Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Public
26 Interest, Emory Public Interest Committee (2002), the Outstanding Service Award of the
27 Atlanta Legal Aid Society (1996), the Georgia Affordable Housing Award for Individual
28 Initiatives (1995), and the Citizen's Award for Outstanding Service from the Fulton
29 County/City of Atlanta Land Bank Authority (1995); and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander co-founded the Center for Community Progress in 2010, where
31 he continues to serve as a senior adviser; and

32 WHEREAS, the Center for Community Progress is the only national nonprofit organization
33 specifically dedicated to revitalizing vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties into
34 assets that benefit neighbors and neighborhoods, in recognition of the severe negative
35 economic, social, and environmental impacts that such properties have on communities and
36 of the legacy of unjust laws, policies, and systems that cause some communities to bear an
37 unfair share of these burdens; and

38 WHEREAS, the Center for Community Progress has provided technical assistance for more
39 than 200 communities in 30 states, such as evaluating delinquent tax enforcement systems,
40 strategizing on housing and building code enforcement, assisting with policy development,
41 and supporting the creation and implementation of land banks; and

42 WHEREAS, the Center for Community Progress has provided tens of thousands of people
43 across the United States with leadership and educational programs and has worked diligently
44 in the areas of policy and research, supporting more than half a dozen successful state
45 reforms related to land banking, code enforcement, and tax foreclosure and advising federal
46 agencies on how to best support community stabilization through funding allocation
47 decisions; and

48 WHEREAS, the center's work deepens practitioners' understanding of the challenges
49 communities face and the opportunities for reform through practical research, ensures that
50 policymakers at the federal and state levels have the proper information and tools to make
51 policy and funding decisions that address local needs, and supports the development of new
52 policy responses to transform vacancy into vibrancy in service of equitable and inclusive
53 communities.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
55 the members of this body recognize and commend Mr. Frank S. Alexander, Esq., for his
56 lifetime of accomplishments and community service through his work with the Center for
57 Community Progress.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
59 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
60 Mr. Frank S. Alexander, Esq.