

House Resolution 525

By: Representative Hutchinson of the 107th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending JoAnn Weiss; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, JoAnn Weiss has been an activist for social justice in Latin and Central
3 America since the early 1980s; in California, she worked with refugees and asylum seekers
4 escaping civil war and violence in El Salvador and Guatemala; and

5 WHEREAS, JoAnn lived in Nicaragua in the mid-1980s, serving as witness to U.S.
6 interventionist policies; while in New Mexico in the 1990s, she supported border
7 communities (colonias) in their efforts to organize and mobilize resources; and

8 WHEREAS, in Georgia, JoAnn served as chair of social justice with the UU Congregation
9 of Gwinnett; in 2011, she led a group from her church to El Refugio to meet with men in
10 immigration detention at Stewart; that was the beginning in her involvement with El Refugio,
11 where she now serves as a house coordinator and Chair of the Board of Directors; and

12 WHEREAS, each week, El Refugio opens its doors to faith communities, schools, and civic
13 organizations that want to learn more about the crisis of immigration detention and visit
14 one-on-one with an immigrant who is detained; their visitors offer compassion and support
15 and serve as witnesses to the system of inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and others
16 who are undocumented; and

17 WHEREAS, when not focused on her job as Chair of the Board of Directors, JoAnn is a
18 GED instructor at Gwinnett Technical College and a yoga instructor at the YMCA; she holds
19 Master's degrees in International Studies and Public Health; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding community activist be
21 appropriately recognized.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body recognize and commend JoAnn Weiss for her many years of
24 community activism and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued success.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
27 JoAnn Weiss.