

House Resolution 824

By: Representatives Jasperse of the 11th, Mathis of the 149th, Ballinger of the 23rd, and Thomas of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7 to 14, 2024, as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week at the
2 state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are one of the most frequently occurring birth defects
4 and a leading cause of deaths related to birth defects worldwide; and

5 WHEREAS, more than one million families across America face the challenges and
6 hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects, and each year, approximately
7 40,000 babies are born in the United States with these conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after
9 birth; when these conditions go undiagnosed, they can cause many cases of sudden cardiac
10 death in young athletes; and

11 WHEREAS, despite these alarming statistics, newborns and young athletes are still not
12 regularly screened for congenital heart defects; and

13 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is the largest cardiac program in the Southeast
14 and one of the top five largest pediatric heart centers in the nation for cardiac intensive care
15 unit (CICU) and cardiac acute care unit (CACU) volumes; and

16 WHEREAS, Children's had more than 63,400 cardiology visits statewide in 2022; and

17 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Heart Center performed over 780 cardiac
18 surgical cases for congenital heart disease patients in 2022; and

19 WHEREAS, Children's CICU saw more than 800 cardiac patients in 2022; and

20 WHEREAS, Children's CACU saw more than 1,200 patients in 2022; and

21 WHEREAS, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta would like to recognize Congenital Heart
22 Defect Awareness Week at the Georgia state capitol as it provides an opportunity for families
23 whose lives have been affected by congenital heart defects to celebrate life, remember the
24 loved ones they have lost, honor dedicated health professionals, and share information with
25 the public and the media.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize February 7 to 14, 2024, as Congenital Heart Defect
28 Awareness Week 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
31 Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and its Kids at Heart program.