

Senate Resolution 488

By: Senators Jackson of the 41st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Butler of the 55th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Jones II of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mercy Care began in the early 1800s with the Sisters of Mercy, who broke with
3 cloistered tradition and compassionately served the poor in their homes and on the streets of
4 Dublin, Ireland, and later made its way to Atlanta with the opening of Atlanta's first hospital
5 in 1880; and

6 WHEREAS, since that time, Mercy Care has expanded its reach in Atlanta; and

7 WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Mercy Care began using its Sisters, physicians, nurses, and
8 volunteers to assist Atlanta's growing homeless population, initially by washing individuals'
9 feet; and

10 WHEREAS, Mercy Care was incorporated on November 22, 1985, as Saint Joseph's Mercy
11 Care Services with the support of contributions from its donors; and

12 WHEREAS, Mercy Care not only operates as a Federally Qualified Health Center in
13 downtown Atlanta and Chamblee but also provides a fleet of mobile medical outreach
14 services, employing street medicine providers who reach those who are homeless; and

15 WHEREAS, Mercy Care now provides several services to individuals regardless of their
16 ability to pay, including primary care, pediatric services, behavioral health and psychiatry,
17 case management, dental care, vision care, health education, HIV treatment, breast and
18 cervical cancer treatment, outreach, pastoral care, and recuperative care; and

19 WHEREAS, Mercy Care receives state funding support from the departments of Behavioral
20 Health and Developmental Disabilities, Community Health, and Public Health; and

21 WHEREAS, Mercy Care partners with several agencies across Atlanta, including Grady
22 Hospital, Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, Emory University,
23 Gateway, City of Refuge, Salvation Army, CHRIS 180, and other Community Health
24 Centers to meet the community's needs.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 extend a warm greeting to Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, including its staff and
27 volunteers, and the individuals and families they serve as well as convey the heartiest
28 commendation for their past, present, and future work for individuals in this state, across our
29 nation, and around the world.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage all citizens to seek
31 mental health services as needed to remain healthy.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Saint Joseph's
34 Mercy Care Services.