

## Senate Resolution 757

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Henson of the 41st and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the L'Arche movement for its pioneering status as a community where people  
2 with disabilities find true belonging and invite others to find belonging with them and  
3 recognizing February 20, 2020, as L'Arche Atlanta Day at the state capitol; and for other  
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the L'Arche movement began in 1964 in France and came to Georgia in 2002;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, a small group of former L'Arche community members joined with parents and  
8 advocates of people with disabilities in Atlanta to pray and plan together to launch a L'Arche  
9 community in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, this group, led by Joslyn Ogden Schaefer and then Laura Wells, envisioned a  
11 community of people with and without disabilities where everyone has their rightful place  
12 in society and where people with disabilities can contribute their indispensable gifts to the  
13 human family; and

14 WHEREAS, Curt Armstrong founded the first L'Arche home in 2012 in Decatur, where now  
15 four people with intellectual disabilities live and share life with five other people without  
16 disabilities and together form a family of mutual support; and

17 WHEREAS, in a world where people with disabilities tend to be segregated away from the  
18 rest of society, the L'Arche home has become a celebrated symbol of belonging and  
19 integration for people with disabilities in Georgia as well as the cornerstone of a movement  
20 much bigger than the home where hundreds of people with and without disabilities regularly  
21 socialize together; and

22 WHEREAS, L'Arche Atlanta is nationally accredited by the Council on Quality and  
23 Leadership and is recognized as a state leader in providing the highest quality care; and

24 WHEREAS, L'Arche Atlanta has hosted community events for 10 years, annually bringing  
25 hundreds of people with and without disabilities together for times of fun and fellowship; and

26 WHEREAS, over 140 individuals with disabilities from all 56 Senate districts in Georgia  
27 have made their voices and stories known through L'Arche Atlanta's Storytelling Project, an  
28 advocacy partnership with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities that ensures  
29 state leaders know the gifts and challenges facing people with disabilities; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding achievements of this  
31 extraordinary organization be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 recognize February 20, 2020, as L'Arche Atlanta Day at the state capitol and commend the  
34 L'Arche movement for its pioneering status as a community where people with disabilities  
35 find true belonging and invite others to find belonging with them.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
38 press.