

Senate Resolution 763

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Jones of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 26, 2020, as Community Midwives National Alliance Day at the state
2 capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a community midwife is a specialist in low-risk maternal care; and

4 WHEREAS, the hallmarks of midwifery emphasize community-based interpersonal
5 relationships, health promotion with preventive care, health education, continuity care,
6 recognition of abnormalities in early stages, and skillful communication with a collaborative
7 healthcare team, such as physicians, mid-level providers, and specialists; and

8 WHEREAS, this great State of Georgia has a centuries-old history of midwives giving
9 conscientious care to the women in their communities; and

10 WHEREAS, through the ages, there have been revered, community-chosen midwives
11 throughout the world; and

12 WHEREAS, community midwives have close relationships with their clients and emphasize
13 total wellness; and

14 WHEREAS, in 93 Georgia counties, labor and delivery units have closed and there are no
15 obstetricians or midwives; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia is in a maternal health state of emergency and is ranked fiftieth in the
17 nation for maternal demise; and

18 WHEREAS, having the help of a community midwife is a safe option for low-risk women;
19 by practicing preventive care, midwives could help save millions of dollars for taxpayers,
20 families, and the healthcare system; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia-certified community midwives have met the International
22 Confederation of Midwifery (ICM) standards, recommended as a safe option by the
23 American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and, globally, by the World Health
24 Organization; and

25 WHEREAS, the majority of midwives practicing globally and meeting the ICM standards
26 are direct-entry midwives; currently, direct-entry midwives are chosen in 70 percent of the
27 United States; and

28 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization states, "Nurses and midwives are the backbone
29 of every health system: in 2020, we're calling on all countries to invest in nurses and
30 midwives as part of their commitment to health for all"; and

31 WHEREAS, the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health
32 Organization, has designated 2020 as the year of the nurse and the midwife to advance
33 nurses' and midwives' vital roles in transforming healthcare around the world; and

34 WHEREAS, "Every Community Deserves a Midwife"; and

35 WHEREAS, community midwives offer hope, expertise, and an exemplary opportunity to
36 impact maternal well-being in the year of the midwife and the nurse.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 recognize February 26, 2020, as Community Midwives National Alliance Day at the state
39 capitol.

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