

## House Resolution 17

By: Representatives Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and Sinkfield of the 60<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the National Advocates for Pregnant Women's National Summit to Ensure the  
2 Health and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women and proclaiming January 19, 2007, as  
3 Ensuring the Health and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women Day in Georgia; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW) works to secure the human  
6 and civil rights, health, and welfare of all women, particularly pregnant and parenting women  
7 and those who are most vulnerable, low-income women, women of color, and drug-using  
8 women; and

9 WHEREAS, the NAPW works to ensure that women do not lose their constitutional and human  
10 rights as a result of pregnancy; that addiction and other health and welfare problems they face  
11 during pregnancy are addressed as health issues, not as crimes; that families are not needlessly  
12 separated based on medical misinformation; and that pregnant and parenting women have  
13 access to a full range of reproductive health services, as well as nonpunitive drug treatment  
14 services; and

15 WHEREAS, the goal of the NAPW's Summit is to acknowledge and build on the connections  
16 between those who identify themselves primarily as pro-choice and members of the maternity  
17 rights and birth with dignity movements; and

18 WHEREAS, this ground-breaking event will honor differences of opinion, recognize the  
19 common threats all pregnant and birthing women face, and celebrate the common ground  
20 shared as everyone works together to ensure the humanity, dignity, and well-being of all  
21 pregnant and birthing women, their families, and their communities; and

22 WHEREAS, today's highly politicized and polarizing abortion debate creates the false and  
23 destructive illusion that there are two kinds of women – women who have abortions and women  
24 who have babies – when the reality is that they are all the same women; and

1 WHEREAS, 61 percent of women having abortions are already mothers, raising one or more  
2 children; and

3 WHEREAS, by age 25, approximately half of all women in the United States have experienced  
4 at least one birth, and by age 44, this figure increases to approximately 85 percent; and

5 WHEREAS, because there are ongoing efforts to limit women's access to contraception and  
6 abortion services, women who are continuing to term also face increased interference with  
7 their rights – such as being denied access to vaginal births after cesarean sections, are  
8 sometimes shamed, coerced, or forced into having unnecessary c-sections, or are threatened  
9 and sometimes actually punished through criminal or civil child welfare sanctions for  
10 continuing to term in spite of health problems they face due to suffering a stillbirth or for  
11 choosing a particular method of delivery; and

12 WHEREAS, pregnant women, regardless of their views on the abortion controversy, are  
13 increasingly confronting employment discrimination as well as policies around health  
14 insurance, the environment, and drugs that threaten their health and well-being and that of their  
15 children; and

16 WHEREAS, pregnant women across party lines and of diverse faiths continue to face domestic  
17 violence and discrimination based on race, class, and disability; and

18 WHEREAS, over 50 international, national, and Georgia-based organizations with diverse  
19 interests and commitments are supporting this pioneering Summit.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the  
21 members of this body recognize the National Advocates for Pregnant Women's National  
22 Summit to Ensure the Health and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women and salute its  
23 worthy goals and efforts towards ensuring the humanity, dignity, and well-being of all pregnant  
24 and birthing women and their families; and proclaim January 19, 2007, as Ensuring the Health  
25 and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women Day in Georgia.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and  
27 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the National Advocates for  
28 Pregnant Women.