

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
GEORGIA TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA**

WHEREAS, being the constitutional level of government closest to their constituents, Georgia counties are on the front lines of responding to mental health issues within the community as well as the development of mental health reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACC) supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable, and adequate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Commission of ACC is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative, and judicial branches in working towards mental health reform in recent years, such as the passage of HB 1013 (2022) and introduction of HB 520 (2023), Chief Justice Boggs's work on jail diversion initiatives, and Governor Kemp's commitment to expanding mental health resources in schools for children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, despite these prior steps and successes, the ACC Mayor and Commission recognizes that there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens of Athens-Clarke County and other citizens across Georgia to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County reaffirms its commitment to reforming and improving mental health services for its citizens and all citizens of the state of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County specifically urges the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Commission is hereby directed to provide an executed copy of this Resolution to each member of the Athens-Clarke County delegation to the Georgia Senate and Georgia House of Representatives and to the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

SO RESOLVED, this 7 day of November, 2023.

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County.

BY: _____

Kelly Girtz, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jean Spratlin, Clerk to the Commission