

House Resolution 235

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Hatchett of the 150th, Lott of the 122nd, England of the 116th, Burns of the 159th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring CASA in Georgia on CASA Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) develops and
3 supports affiliate organizations across the state that provide volunteer advocacy for children
4 who have experienced abuse or neglect and are involved in juvenile court dependency
5 proceedings through no fault of their own; and

6 WHEREAS, since its founding 30 years ago, 47 affiliate CASA organizations have been
7 established in Georgia, and over 25,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for more than
8 120,000 children throughout the state; and

9 WHEREAS, last year alone, 2,700 CASA volunteers advocated for 11,400 children, over
10 10,400 of whom were in our state's legal custody; and

11 WHEREAS, CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by ensuring
12 a qualified, compassionate adult fights for and protects a child's right to be safe, to be treated
13 with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving, stable family;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, a CASA volunteer is a deeply committed, specially trained individual from the
16 community who is appointed by the juvenile court judge to work within the child welfare
17 system by providing individualized attention, bringing urgency to children's needs
18 throughout their time in state custody, and offering consistency and continuity by helping to
19 connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other
20 stakeholders; and

21 WHEREAS, as an external partner, CASA maximizes resources and support for children and
22 families involved with the child welfare system through increased community involvement

23 and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated, compassionate
24 response to child victims and families in crisis; and

25 WHEREAS, we are proud to recognize CASA volunteers in Georgia for giving selflessly of
26 their time and talents to advocate for the best interests of children in juvenile court
27 dependency proceedings and also commend volunteer board members and the staff of both
28 Georgia CASA and the affiliate CASA organizations for their countless contributions made
29 on behalf of Georgia's children.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body honor CASA in Georgia on CASA Day at the state capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
34 Georgia CASA.