

Senate Resolution 162

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) and recognizing
2 February 7, 2017, as CASA Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) is an
4 organization established to develop and support affiliate programs that provide volunteer
5 advocacy for abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency
6 proceedings; and

7 WHEREAS, since its founding, 46 affiliate CASA programs in Georgia have been
8 established, and over 24,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for over 120,000 children
9 throughout the State of Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, last year alone, 2,312 CASA volunteers advocated for 10,246 children, over
11 9,300 of whom were in our state's legal custody; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making
13 sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to
14 be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving
15 family; and

16 WHEREAS, a CASA is a deeply committed, specially trained community volunteer who
17 works within the child welfare system and is appointed by the juvenile court judge to provide
18 individualized attention, bring urgency to a child's needs throughout his or her time in state
19 custody, and offer consistency and continuity by helping to connect information among case
20 managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other stakeholders; and

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

23 involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated,
24 compassionate 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
28 Georgia CASA and the affiliate CASA programs for their countless contributions made on
29 behalf of Georgia's children.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 honor Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates and recognize February 7, 2017, as
32 CASA Day at the state capitol.

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