

Senate Resolution 513

By: Senators Mallow of the 2nd, Harbison of the 15th, Sims of the 12th, Davenport of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Greenbriar Children's Center; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, because there was no orphanage for black children, for nearly a century
3 Chatham County black youth were often placed at the old "Brown Farm," a 400 acre county
4 penal farm, and girls were sent to the Chatham County Protective Home, operated by the
5 Savannah Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; and

6 WHEREAS, this sad situation persisted until Greenbriar Children's Center was established;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in 1965, Greenbriar began its first outreach program under the auspices of the
9 Economic Opportunity Authority (EOA); under the program, mothers of children too young
10 for day-care centers who wished to attend vocational training classes offered by the EOA
11 could leave their children in private homes under the supervision of Greenbriar; and

12 WHEREAS, in June of 1970, Greenbriar expanded its services to operate an on-campus
13 day-care center for 25 children whose mothers were part of the Work Incentive Program of
14 the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services; and

15 WHEREAS, in February of 1971, Windy's Play Skool, an off-campus extension of
16 Greenbriar, opened its doors and became the first day-care facility in Georgia to receive
17 federal funds under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and, unlike other centers, to accept
18 pre-school children of any age, including infants, so as to keep family members together; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1987, Greenbriar established its second outreach program currently called
20 Family Preservation and Support Services. This was a multiservice program linked to other
21 community agencies to provide intensive counseling within the home. This program was
22 established because it is understood that many community problems involving children are
23 related to deteriorating family relationships. Also, the historical role of the family as the
24 center of cultural continuity and social cohesion might be rescued and preserved through an
25 aggressive, preventive counseling program to strengthen parental skills and family structures;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, under the leadership of three Executive Directors: Doris E. Roberts 1953-1985;
28 Yvette Johnson-Hagins 1989-2003; and Gena P. Taylor 2004-current, Greenbriar through its
29 programs and services has been a beacon of hope and love to thousands of families and
30 children.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize and commend Greenbriar Children's Center for the role it has played in preserving
33 and strengthening families in Chatham County.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Greenbriar
36 Children's Center.