

Senate Resolution 565

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores and its members for their work
2 in eradicating human trafficking; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores (GACS) earned a 2019
4 American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Power of A Summit Award for its
5 Convenience Stores Against Trafficking (CSAT) program dedicated to eradicating human
6 trafficking by training workers and providing tools and resources to association members;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, ASAE honored the program that encourages convenience stores to serve their
9 communities by registering for CSAT, a no-cost program focused on equipping convenience
10 store employees with proper training and materials to safely recognize the signs of human
11 trafficking and to report them; and

12 WHEREAS, materials include Freedom stickers for restroom stalls and an education video
13 produced by partner organization, In Our Backyard; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2018, Georgia was seventh in the nation for the most cases of human
15 trafficking reported to the National HT Hotline; and

16 WHEREAS, what began for GACS as an initiative surrounding the 2019 Super Bowl in
17 Atlanta has become an ongoing program to fight human trafficking; and

18 WHEREAS, as of March 1, 2019, through the first six months of this partnership, 25 percent
19 of GACS retail members and 19 percent of member store locations have taken part. 17
20 member companies have registered for CSAT, and 281 retail store locations have received
21 training and placed life-saving Freedom stickers in restroom stalls; and

22 WHEREAS, to gain maximum visibility, GACS organized the distribution of missing
23 children booklets and visits to hundreds of metro area convenience stores to equip them to
24 recognize and report human trafficking. Within three hours of the launch of this activity, on
25 January 26, store managers and clerks had given two credible leads to law enforcement that
26 led to arrest and rescue; and

27 WHEREAS, as of May 23, 2019, 29 of the 34 children in the missing children booklet have
28 been recovered; and

29 WHEREAS, seven adult victims have come out of their situations and received help; and

30 WHEREAS, the ASAE's Power of A (association) Awards, the industry's highest honor,
31 recognize the association community's valuable contributions on the local, national, and
32 global levels. The Power of A Awards reward the outstanding accomplishments of
33 associations and industry professionals who work tirelessly to solve problems and strengthen
34 lives, the workforce, the economy, and the world; and

35 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting that this body recognize the efforts and awards received
36 by the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores and its members and thank them for their
37 work.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body commends the
39 Georgia Association of Convenience Stores and its members for their work in eradicating
40 human trafficking.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to members of the
43 Georgia Association of Convenience Stores, the public, and the press.