

## Senate Resolution 605

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Payne of the 54th, Echols of the 49th, Anavitarte of the 31st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) and recognizing  
2 February 15, 2024, as CASA Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, since its founding 36 years ago, 46 affiliate CASA organizations have been  
4 established in Georgia, reaching children in foster care in all 159 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, last year alone, more than 2,500 CASA volunteers advocated for more than  
6 8,600 children in our state's legal custody, providing each child with impartial advocacy that  
7 nurtures hope, seeks solutions, and stands in the gap between a challenging present and a  
8 promising future; and

9 WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are central to ensuring that all children who experience abuse  
10 or neglect have opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of  
11 permanent connections to family; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are deeply committed, specially trained individuals from the  
13 community who are appointed by the juvenile court judge to improve a child's experience  
14 in foster care by providing individualized attention, bringing urgency to children's needs  
15 throughout their time in state custody, and offering consistency and continuity by helping to

16 connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other  
17 stakeholders; and

18 WHEREAS, as external partners, Georgia CASA and its affiliates maximize resources and  
19 support for children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased  
20 community involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more  
21 coordinated and compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis; and

22 WHEREAS, we take pride in acknowledging CASA volunteers for their selfless dedication  
23 to advocating for the best interests of children in juvenile court dependency proceedings and  
24 commend the volunteer board members and staff of both Georgia CASA and the affiliate  
25 CASA programs for their countless contributions made on behalf of Georgia's children.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 honor Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates and recognize February 15, 2024, as  
28 CASA Day at the state capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
31 press.