

Senate Resolution 992

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Helping Hands Ending Hunger Inc. for its efforts on behalf
2 of food insecure children and families in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, recent data show that one in six children (more than 405,000) in Georgia are
4 food insecure; due to the impacts of COVID-19, child food insecurity rates are projected to
5 increase; and

6 WHEREAS, studies have established that malnourished children perform worse than their
7 peers in school, face poorer health, have greater risk of social and behavioral problems, and
8 may be less likely to succeed as adults; and

9 WHEREAS, moreover, in school districts around the state, thousands of pounds of food on
10 children's cafeteria trays go uneaten and are discarded, filling landfills and creating harmful
11 greenhouse gas emissions; and

12 WHEREAS, Helping Hands Ending Hunger Inc. (HHEH) has developed a unique turnkey
13 school program designed to address the challenging issues of both child food insecurity and
14 school food waste and is the only food collection and donation model to have been expressly
15 reviewed and approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health and Department of
16 Education as operating in accordance with USDA regulations and all applicable local and
17 state health and food safety guidelines; and

18 WHEREAS, the mission and vision of HHEH is to empower students to recycle uneaten food
19 from school cafeterias and join hands with their communities to feed hungry families,
20 alleviate childhood food insecurity, reduce food waste, encourage education equity, and
21 shape a better world; and

22 WHEREAS, since 2017, HHEH has collected and donated 862,000 pounds of food, equating
23 to 719,000 meals for 8,300 families and 21,100 food insecure children, reducing 542,500
24 pounds of harmful greenhouse gas emissions in Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, data collected by HHEH have established that participating school climates are
26 improving and that children participating in its program are happier and healthier, are
27 performing better in school, and are learning lifelong social and emotional lessons; and

28 WHEREAS, HHEH is expanding exponentially throughout school districts in Georgia as a
29 result of recent national and global attention in various press outlets regarding its program
30 and efforts on behalf of children; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize HHEH for its efforts on behalf
32 of food insecure children and families in Georgia, which positively impact the educational
33 performance and health of participating children, foster social and emotional learning for
34 students, improve school climates, and build sustainable community-driven solutions that
35 address the challenges of food insecurity and school food waste.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 recognize and commend Helping Hands Ending Hunger Inc. for its efforts on behalf of food
38 insecure children and families in Georgia and extend best wishes for continued success.

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