

House Resolution 1304

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Coomer of the 14th, Jasperse of the 11th, Hightower of the 68th, Ramsey of the 72nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Georgia's Court Appointed Special Advocates for their hard work and
2 dedication to improving the lives of Georgia's children; and for other purposes.

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

6 WHEREAS, since its founding, 47 affiliate CASA programs in Georgia have been
7 established, and over 22,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for over 110,000 children
8 throughout the State of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, last year alone, 2,181 CASA volunteers advocated for 9,709 children, over
10 8,600 of whom were in our state's legal custody; and

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

15 WHEREAS, a special advocate is a deeply committed, specially trained community
16 volunteer who works within the child welfare system and is appointed by the juvenile court
17 judge to provide individualized attention, bring urgency to a child's needs throughout his or
18 her time in state custody, and offer consistency and continuity by helping to connect
19 information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other stakeholders;
20 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend Georgia's Court Appointed Special Advocates for their
32 hard work and dedication to improving the lives of Georgia's children.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
35 public and the press.