

House Resolution 1334

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89th, Benton of the 31st, Sharper of the 177th, Hugley of the 136th, and Kirby of the 114th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring kinship caregivers in the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is dedicated to ensuring that its children and youth grow
3 in stable households that provide a nurturing and comforting environment; and
- 4 WHEREAS, more than 2.7 million kinship care households reside in the United States, and
5 these families are composed of blood and non-blood relatives who have taken on the role as
6 the primary caregiver after a life-altering occasion; and
- 7 WHEREAS, more than 250,000 of Georgia's grandparents live with their grandchildren
8 despite older relative caregivers being significantly more likely to have a disability and face
9 economic hardship; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 2015 the Georgia House of Representatives formed the Georgia House Study
11 Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care for the purposes of
12 determining how better to serve the selfless grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles,
13 siblings, and other family members who love, nurture, and provide for the children in their
14 care, helping them to obtain better educational outcomes, build healthier relationships, and
15 live happier lives; and
- 16 WHEREAS, members of the Georgia House of Representatives traveled the state in 2015 as
17 part of the Georgia House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and
18 Kinship Care and heard testimony from hundreds of grandparents and kinship caregivers
19 concerning the unique challenges and struggles they face as guardians and to better
20 determine how the State of Georgia can provide valuable assistance to these families in need;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia offers many services to kinship residents, including legal, financial,
23 and medical assistance; child care; support groups; respite care; and educational resources;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in kinship care, the child benefits greatly but through the unselfish dedication
26 of the caregiver, the state profits as well, as kinship caregivers are key in the prevention of
27 foster care placements and therefore save the state valuable resources; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of these
29 remarkable and distinguished individuals be appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body honor kinship caregivers for their unselfish and dedicated service
32 to their state.

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.