

## House Resolution 661

By: Representatives Neal of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Lindsey of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey of the 72<sup>nd</sup>, Pak of the 108<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 7, 2013, as Georgia Justice Project Day at the capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for more than 25 years, Georgia Justice Project (GJP) has developed a  
4 comprehensive suite of services, coupling holistic legal defense and social services with  
5 advocacy support, to address the barriers to economic stability faced by the criminally  
6 accused; and

7 WHEREAS, GJP serves the lowest-wealth members of the community who are also at the  
8 highest risk for criminal involvement; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project has four unique programs serving individuals who have  
10 criminal issues facing them, including Holistic Indigent Defense, Criminal Records  
11 Counseling and Correction, Social Services (including visiting those in prison), and  
12 Employment Support; and

13 WHEREAS, building on its years of direct service to those in need, Georgia Justice Project  
14 works with legislators and others to advocate for common-sense changes to the laws on  
15 collateral consequences; and

16 WHEREAS, through its programs and advocacy, GJP achieves outstanding and  
17 cost-effective results, including much lower than average incarceration and recidivism rates  
18 and increased awareness about the adverse impact of a criminal record on individuals and our  
19 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, through wonderful financial support from a number of corporations and  
21 foundations, such as the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, the Community Foundation for  
22 Greater Atlanta, the Tull Charitable Foundation, the Coca-Cola Company, UPS, the Sapelo  
23 Foundation, and many others, Georgia Justice Project serves its many clients; and

24 WHEREAS, to engage students in its work, GJP has academic partnerships with schools  
25 across the country, including prominent Georgia institutions Emory University, John  
26 Marshall School of Law, Georgia State University, and Mercer University; and

27 WHEREAS, GJP is honored to have local law firms supporting its efforts, including Alston  
28 & Bird, Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Jones Day, King & Spalding, Nelson Mullins Riley  
29 & Scarborough, Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, and many  
30 others; and

31 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project has been a nationally recognized entity for its  
32 innovation and impact on individuals and the community, including being named as a winner  
33 of the Annie E. Casey Families County Award and being included in the 2012 edition of  
34 *Forces for Good*; and

35 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
36 distinguished organization, including the agency's staff and volunteers, be appropriately  
37 recognized for the services it provides to Georgians.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
39 the members of this body honor and commend Georgia Justice Project for its many years of  
40 efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the citizens of this state and  
41 recognize March 7, 2013, as Georgia Justice Project Day at the capitol.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Georgia Justice Project.