

Senate Resolution 370

By: Senators Burke of the 11th, Miller of the 49th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Watson of the 1st, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Easterseals Georgia and their chapters' Champions for Children Program; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters throughout Georgia offer and provide services to
4 thousands of individuals, and their families, who have birth defects and disabilities to help
5 improve their physical mobility, health, and employment opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters work with their clients and families through various
7 family support initiatives, giving them greater independence for everyday living; and

8 WHEREAS, Easterseals' chapters offer services including autism services; respite family
9 services including Megan's House, vocational services, and job placements; adult day
10 programs; community living supports; Head Start and Early Head Start; and Champions for
11 Children; and

12 WHEREAS, Easterseals initiated the Champions for Children effort in 2007 with the General
13 Assembly's provision of \$7.6 million in initial funding to help medically fragile children as
14 well as many with autism, Down's syndrome, and other costly diseases who are not

15 medically eligible for participating in the TEFRA/Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver Program
16 so that they could remain with their families; and

17 WHEREAS, through the initial appropriation for Champions for Children, Easterseals
18 worked to leverage private dollars to help children who did not meet the Katie Beckett
19 Waiver criteria so that families could receive help with their children's enormous medical
20 costs; and

21 WHEREAS, Easterseals now serves more than 400 special needs children up to the age of
22 18 and their families annually through the Champions for Children program; and

23 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program has provided respite care to families,
24 hearing aids, special medical foods, dental care, optical care, recreation and therapeutic
25 activities, and a host of other items so that these children may live at home with their
26 families; and

27 WHEREAS, the Champions for Children program can conceivably be known as "angels" for
28 children program as it provides tools and services to many Georgia children so that they can
29 live successful lives.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 extend a warm greeting to Easterseals' chapters as well as their staff, volunteers, and the
32 individuals and families who are served and convey to them this legislative body's heartiest
33 commendation for their past, present, and future work for those individuals in this state.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Easterseals'
36 chapters.