

## Senate Resolution 455

By: Senators Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Brass of the 28th, Jackson of the 41st, Merritt of the 9th, Burns of the 23rd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 7, 2024, as Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia Day in the State  
2 of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, child abuse, exploitation, and neglect are significant problems in the United  
4 States, and the effects are traumatic and can be long-lasting; and

5 WHEREAS, in the past year in the State of Georgia, 11,899 newly suspected child abuse  
6 victims were served daily in Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia's network of member  
7 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs). One out of every ten children will be sexually abused  
8 before the age of 18, and of these victims served by Children's Advocacy Centers of  
9 Georgia's network, approximately 29 percent are seven years old and younger. The average  
10 age of entry to commercial sexual exploitation in Georgia is 12 years old. The Commercial  
11 Sexual Exploitation of Children Response Team (which includes the network of 49 CACs)  
12 has served child victims of commercial exploitation (trafficking) as young as three years old;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers began establishing in Georgia 37 years ago and  
15 were created to correct the fragmented, adult-oriented, and insensitive treatment services to

16 children. Professionals and agencies would meet and talk with the child separately and  
17 repeatedly in facilities designed for adults; and

18 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers provide a neutral, child-friendly environment  
19 where trained professionals and agencies utilize a multi-disciplinary team approach to  
20 investigate and treat alleged child abuse and exploitation cases. CACs offer prompt, ongoing,  
21 and free forensic, advocacy, medical, and therapeutic services to investigative professionals  
22 and the children and families collectively served. The research and evidence-based practices  
23 of CAC professionals in the forensic and therapeutic services reduce trauma to child victims  
24 and their families, which increases the child's ability to heal and become successful adults  
25 who positively contribute to their communities; and

26 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia is a nonprofit organization with the  
27 mission to promote lifelong resiliencies for all of Georgia's child abuse victims by providing  
28 resources and oversight of standardization of care to our network of child advocacy centers  
29 and direct services for child trafficking victims. In 2020, Children's Advocacy Centers of  
30 Georgia was designated to provide the statewide response to commercial sexual exploitation  
31 of children and established the first-of-its-kind CSEC Response Team, which provides a  
32 direct service team that works in conjunction with the CACs of Georgia and combines the  
33 efforts of CACs and multidisciplinary teams across our state to fight the sale of children and  
34 provide treatment to the victims; and

35 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia is an accredited chapter of the National  
36 Children's Alliance and is a statewide membership organization composed of 49 certified  
37 Member CACs; and

38 WHEREAS, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia is a national leading state chapter  
39 committed to alleviating all forms of child abuse including physical abuse and neglect, sexual  
40 abuse, internet crimes against children, child fatality, and commercial sexual exploitation of  
41 children (otherwise known as CSEC or child trafficking).

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
43 commend the Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia and their network of CACs for their  
44 diligent and steadfast commitment to assisting victims of child abuse as well as recognize  
45 February 7, 2024, as Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia Day in the State of Georgia.

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