

Senate Resolution 637

By: Senators Merritt of the 9th, Butler of the 55th, Esteves of the 6th, McLaurin of the 14th, Islam Parkes of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and recognizing the Partnership Against Domestic Violence and its CEO,
2 Katha Blackwell; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Partnership Against Domestic Violence began with one bed and one phone
4 as an all-volunteer entity in 1975 in Atlanta and has since grown to become the largest
5 provider of domestic violence services in Georgia through the assistance of grants and
6 generous donations from foundations, businesses, and individuals; and

7 WHEREAS, the agency is the first and largest domestic violence organization in Georgia
8 providing professional and empowering support to abused women, children, and men in the
9 City of Atlanta, Gwinnett County, and Fulton County and works to educate the public on the
10 dynamics of domestic violence; promote healthy dating relationships among adolescents,
11 teens, and young adults to prevent future violence; offer safety and shelter for abused adults
12 and children; restore power, self-sufficiency, and control to survivors; and create an effective
13 and coordinated community response to domestic violence; and

14 WHEREAS, the agency provides two 24-hour emergency shelters or safe homes for victims
15 of domestic violence in Fulton and Gwinnett counties; and

16 WHEREAS, the agency works to end domestic violence by offering safety and shelter for
17 victims of domestic violence; restoring power, self-sufficiency, and control to domestic
18 violence survivors; and educating the public on the dynamics of domestic violence and
19 serves more than 10,000 thousand clients each year; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to providing safe homes for victims, the agency also provides many
21 other services, including a 24-hour crisis line; parenting services; children and youth
22 programming to allow children to deal with their feelings about domestic violence;
23 community-based services for survivors who may not need safe homes; supportive housing;
24 legal advocacy; community support groups; public benefits assistance; teen dating violence
25 prevention programming; and outreach to the community by offering educational
26 programming to police officers, judges, hospitals, businesses, legislators, child protection
27 agencies, clergy, and the media; and

28 WHEREAS, Katha Blackwell, a domestic violence advocate and CEO of Partnership Against
29 Domestic Violence in Georgia, brings more than two decades of experience to the mission
30 of ending domestic violence; and

31 WHEREAS, she was born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, knew at a young age that
32 domestic violence was wrong, and decided to make it her goal to help victims of domestic
33 violence; and

34 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, she went to Michigan State University and
35 became one of the many field researchers for the Violence Against Women Initiative; and

36 WHEREAS, she is a licensed social worker with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science
37 Pre-law from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Social Service
38 Administration from the University of Chicago; and

39 WHEREAS, in 2019, she received the "Woman of Influence" award from the Atlanta
40 Business League, and she currently lives in North Georgia with her husband, Eric, and their
41 two children, Elias and Eliana, continuing her tireless work to help survivors heal and thrive;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding work of this fine
44 organization and this remarkable and distinguished Georgian and their numerous
45 contributions to the citizens of this state be appropriately recognized.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
47 commend the Partnership Against Domestic Violence and its CEO, Katha Blackwell, for
48 their dedicated efforts in prevention, intervention, and eradication of domestic violence.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Partnership Against Domestic
51 Violence and Katha Blackwell.