

House Resolution 1120

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Efstration of the 104th, Taylor of the 173rd, Jones of the 47th, Burchett of the 176th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) and recognizing
2 February 15, 2024, as CASA Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, since its founding 36 years ago, 46 affiliate CASA organizations have been
4 established in Georgia, reaching children in foster care in all 159 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, last year alone, more than 2,500 CASA volunteers advocated for more than
6 8,600 children in our state's legal custody, providing each child with impartial advocacy that
7 nurtures hope, seeks solutions, and stands in the gap between a challenging present and a
8 promising future; and

9 WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are central to ensuring that all children who experience abuse
10 or neglect have opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of
11 permanent connections to family; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are deeply committed, specially trained individuals from the
13 community who are appointed by the juvenile court judge to improve a child's experience
14 in foster care by providing individualized attention, bringing urgency to children's needs
15 throughout their time in state custody, and offering consistency and continuity by helping to

16 connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other
17 stakeholders; and

18 WHEREAS, as external partners, Georgia CASA and its affiliates maximize resources and
19 support for children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased
20 community involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more
21 coordinated and compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis; and

22 WHEREAS, we take pride in acknowledging CASA volunteers for their selfless dedication
23 to advocating for the best interests of children in juvenile court dependency proceedings and
24 commend the volunteer board members and staff of both Georgia CASA and the affiliate
25 CASA programs for their countless contributions made on behalf of Georgia's children.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body honor Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates and recognize
28 February 15, 2024, as CASA Day at the state capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 public and the press.