

House Resolution 198

By: Representatives Ballinger of the 23rd, Gaines of the 120th, Dempsey of the 13th, Hatchett of the 155th, and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 14, 2023, as Stand with Survivors Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, family and intimate partner violence is a significant public health issue with
4 many individual and societal costs; and

5 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a leading cause of injury to American women, and
6 witnessing such violence can have a devastating emotional effect on children; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia currently ranks 30th in the nation for the rate women are killed by men
8 according to the Violence Policy Center; and

9 WHEREAS, from inner cities to rural communities, domestic violence and sexual assault are
10 pervasive life-altering crimes that affect individuals from every aspect of our society,
11 regardless of a person's age, economic status, culture, education level, gender, sexual
12 orientation, race, ability, or religion; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2020, Georgia law enforcement agencies reported 42,031 incidents of family
14 violence according to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence's 2022 Annual Statistics

15 and Facts Sheet; there were 114,640 crisis calls to Georgia's certified family violence and
16 sexual assault agencies—a 20 percent increase from the number of crisis calls in 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, there was a 49 percent increase in family violence-related fatalities and family
18 violence-related murder-suicide fatalities rose 76 percent in Georgia from 2020 to 2021; and

19 WHEREAS, law enforcement, local, and state agencies; community groups; businesses; and
20 faith-based organizations must work together collaboratively and comprehensively to
21 develop meaningful community responsiveness to reduce family violence and save lives; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Georgia Commission on
23 Family Violence, Men Stopping Violence, and the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault
24 believe a coordinated community response is necessary to abate this epidemic; and

25 WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts of the many professionals and volunteers who make it their
26 mission to aid and serve those whose lives are impacted by family and intimate partner
27 violence by offering protection, guidance, encouragement, and compassion to survivors of
28 domestic violence and sexual assault across this great state are hereby commended with
29 much gratitude.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize February 14, 2023, as Stand with Survivors Day at the
32 state capitol.

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