

Senate Resolution 495

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd, Sims of the 12th, Williams of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending SwemLyfe on launching the SwemKids program; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, drowning is the leading cause of injury deaths for young children in the United
3 States; Georgia has the second highest number of drownings in the southeastern states and
4 is nationally ranked fifth for drowning deaths; and

5 WHEREAS, in America, 64 percent of African American children do not know how to
6 swim, and 90 percent of fatal child drownings are attributed to this population; and

7 WHEREAS, historical and cultural barriers, stemming from such events as segregation and
8 Jim Crow laws, have prevented generations of African Americans from learning how to
9 swim, which has negatively influenced their views about swimming and contributed to the
10 fear of water that African American parents have for their families; and

11 WHEREAS, SwemLyfe seeks to remove obstacles that prevent African American children
12 and families from having a safe and healthy relationship with water through its flagship
13 program, SwemKids; this program provides school-based swimming and water safety
14 programs for elementary and middle school students; and

15 WHEREAS, as part of a school curriculum, students are transported to local pools to receive
16 introductory swimming lessons and water safety instruction over a two week period; through
17 SwemLyfe, students learn basic swimming techniques, as well as basic CPR and first aid
18 tips; and

19 WHEREAS, SwemLyfe's objective is for every child to have the chance to learn how to
20 swim and, thus, to drastically reduce drowning occurrences in Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, although swimming is fun, it is also an important life-saving skill that all
22 children should have access to; and

23 WHEREAS, SwemLyfe is providing an invaluable service to the Atlanta community through
24 its SwemKids program, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this admirable
25 organization be appropriately commended.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend SwemLyfe for recognizing the need to promote healthy and active children in
28 Georgia and applaud the organization's SwemKids program for providing much needed
29 resources to the children and families of Georgia.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the SwemLyfe and SwemKids.