

Senate Resolution 71

By: Senators James of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Davenport of the 44th, Rhett of the 33rd, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 16, 2023, as Children's Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the future of Georgia depends on the ability of today's children to grow into
3 productive workers, loving parents, engaged citizens, and visionary leaders; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia has made significant gains in recent years, including an increasing
5 percentage of Georgia's high school students graduating on time and a reduction in the
6 number of youth detained or incarcerated; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Georgia has further invested in education-related programs, including the
8 National School Lunch Program, Title I Grants, Special Education (IDEA), and Head
9 Start/Early Head Start Programs; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the state has invested heavily in mental health and addiction services for
11 children and adults, with \$43 million across line items in the fiscal year 2020 budget; and
- 12 WHEREAS, despite this, some of Georgia's children continue to struggle to meet high
13 standards of health, education, family stability, and employability to compete nationally and
14 internationally; and

15 WHEREAS, 28 percent of children in Georgia live in poverty, and 59 percent of students
16 qualify for free and reduced-price lunches; and

17 WHEREAS, all children, especially children in foster care, with disabilities or health
18 challenges, or without family guidance need the appropriate resources and support from the
19 local community and state to achieve success; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia state agencies, including the Departments of Community Health,
21 Public Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Early Care and Learning,
22 Education, Human Services, and Juvenile Justice, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and
23 the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council are setting higher goals for improving the lives
24 of children and collaborating more closely to achieve their goals; and

25 WHEREAS, Voices for Georgia's Children, a nonprofit organization, has convened
26 child-serving and child advocacy organizations for Children's Day at the state capitol to
27 encourage lawmakers to recognize the impact of public policy and programs on all aspects
28 of child well-being; and

29 WHEREAS, the goal of Children's Day is to increase the commitment of all Georgians to
30 children and children's issues by providing current research, information, and policy
31 suggestions through a celebratory event at the state capitol.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize March 16, 2023, as Children's Day at the state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Voices for
36 Georgia's Children.