

## House Resolution 599

By: Representatives Marin of the 66<sup>th</sup> and Floyd of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Post 2

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina!; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! is a public education campaign developed by the  
3 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Center for Substance  
4 Abuse Prevention and launched in Mission, Texas, on April 21, 2001, that is designed to help  
5 Latina girls between the ages of nine and 14 build and enhance their self-esteem, mental  
6 health, decision making, and assertiveness skills and to prevent the harmful consequences  
7 of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, the ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! project encourages cultural pride by emphasizing  
9 the strengths inherent in the Hispanic culture through posters, activity books, brochures, and  
10 internet websites that address belonging and adaptation, teach assertiveness and decision  
11 making skills, and provide tips of becoming healthy and successful young adults; and

12 WHEREAS, as we continue to witness the deleterious effects of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit  
13 drugs on our communities and confront the reality that a significant number of Latina girls  
14 rank higher in rates of pregnancy, depression, and suicide than any racial or ethnic group,  
15 there is a dire need for programs such as ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina! to counter these influences  
16 and to renew the commitment to protect and empower these young people toward productive  
17 and healthy activities and facilitate their spiritual and emotional strength; and

18 WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 17, 2003, the 2003 Georgia rally for ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy  
19 Latina! will be held with a health fair addressing the major risks for these young women with  
20 special emphasis on substance abuse prevention, gang prevention, pregnancy prevention, and  
21 education, and with singers and dancers for entertainment.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body recognize and commend the work of the ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina!

1 campaign and encourage those agencies and sponsors of the campaign in their worthwhile  
2 efforts to assist these young women in becoming productive citizens.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
4 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia sponsors of  
5 ¡Soy Unica! ¡Soy Latina!.