

## Senate Resolution 779

By: Senators Balfour of the 9th, Unterman of the 45th and Reed of the 35th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 30, 2008, as "A Future. Not a Past. Day" at the capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has a great heritage of protecting its children by creating  
4 stiff penalties for those who seek to harm children through prostitution and other forms of  
5 commercial sexual exploitation; and

6 WHEREAS, independent studies are finding that despite strong laws and stiff penalties, more  
7 than 250 adolescent girls are victims of prostitution in Georgia each month; and

8 WHEREAS, the prostitution of children is a crime that stretches across the state and harms  
9 more girls in Georgia each month than are killed in car accidents statewide each year; and

10 WHEREAS, the Internet has evolved the prostitution of children into an organized industry  
11 extending its reach to communities where such access to children was once limited; and

12 WHEREAS, 65 percent of men who are inquiring about sex service on the Internet are  
13 responding to ads that exploit young females; and

14 WHEREAS, children between the ages of 11 and 16, but as young as ten, are being marketed  
15 for sex; and

16 WHEREAS, children who seek to escape their exploiters are often vigorously pursued,  
17 beaten, raped, mutilated, and murdered; and

18 WHEREAS, there is a greater need in our state for supportive services and a secure  
19 environment for child victims of prostitution; and

1 WHEREAS, these services will help in the identification and conviction of their exploiters;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Senate has supported initial funding to provide these services through a  
4 Regional Assessment Center and recognizes the need for a fully funded Regional Assessment  
5 Center; and

6 WHEREAS, the Senate has passed Senate Resolution 445, establishing the Joint Commercial  
7 Sexual Exploitation of Minors Study Commission to undertake a study of the conditions,  
8 needs, issues, and problems related to the prostitution of children and recommend any action  
9 or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate; and

10 WHEREAS, organizations, local governments, law enforcement, and individuals across  
11 Georgia have joined together in a state-wide effort to stop the prostitution of children through  
12 the campaign, "A Future. Not a Past"; and

13 WHEREAS, stopping the prostitution of children is a noble endeavor that unites Georgians  
14 from all walks of life and throughout our state; and

15 WHEREAS all Georgia children are entitled to "A Future. Not a Past."

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body,  
17 on behalf of the citizens of Georgia, hereby recognize January 30, 2008, as "A Future. Not  
18 a Past. Day" at the capitol.