

Senate Resolution 807

By: Senator Thomas of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Savannah Community Church and the Give Kids A Smile program in
2 Savannah for increasing community awareness of the importance of oral hygiene; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, with each passing year, science uncovers more evidence of the critical
5 importance of oral health to overall health; and

6 WHEREAS, early diagnosis, preventive treatments, and early intervention can prevent or halt
7 the progress of most oral diseases, which, if left untreated, can have painful, disfiguring, and
8 lasting negative health consequences; and

9 WHEREAS, nearly half of children from ages two through nine suffer from untreated tooth
10 decay; and

11 WHEREAS, in Chatham County, only 41.5 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid received
12 any dental service in 2005, and that means 41,677 children did not receive any dental care;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, local dentists have teamed up with Savannah Community
15 Church to provide free dental screenings to children in the community and to provide a day
16 of fun, education, and inspiration; and

17 WHEREAS, this event, Give Kids A Smile, is held annually to provide free dental services
18 to local, qualifying children from low-income families; to raise awareness of the epidemic
19 of untreated dental disease occurring in Savannah and across the country; and to raise
20 awareness of the need to build local public and private partnerships to increase access to oral
21 health care to help solve this crisis.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 commend the Savannah Community Church and local dentists for working to make Give
3 Kids A Smile the great community health and awareness program that it is and wish them
4 continuing success in building and promoting this program.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
6 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Savannah Community Church and to
7 Rolando Cooper, Chairperson for Give Kids A Smile, Savannah.