

Senate Resolution 506

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Mental Health Continuum Care; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the commercial sexual exploitation of minors is often precipitated by
4 undiagnosed mental health issues; and

5 WHEREAS, most commercially sexually exploited children suffer from a myriad of mental
6 health problems including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and
7 sexually transmitted diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, many mental health issues are compounded by deficits in life skills such as
9 conflict resolution, problem solving, anger management, and maintaining healthy
10 relationships; and

11 WHEREAS, research has shown that early childhood trauma such as physical or sexual
12 abuse, or both, affects normal ego development; and

13 WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a solid understanding of how to best address these
14 issues which, if left untreated, may establish a group of vulnerable adults that become a drain
15 on social welfare programs; and

16 WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting Georgia's youth, it is fitting and proper to
17 investigate and examine the services available across the public and private sectors capable
18 of recognizing and treating mental health issues in minors.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
20 Study Committee on Mental Health Continuum Care to be composed of seven members of
21 the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall

22 designate a member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall
23 call all meetings of the committee.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
25 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
26 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
27 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
28 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
29 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
30 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
31 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
32 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
33 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
34 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
35 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
36 made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
37 31, 2009.