

Senate Resolution 954

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, James of the 35th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger and the Up & Out of
2 Poverty Now! Coalition on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Poor People's Day at the
3 state capitol; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger and the Up & Out of Poverty Now!
5 Coalition celebrate the 30th annual Poor People's Day at the state capitol on February 10th
6 and 11th, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger and the Up & Out of Poverty Now!
8 Coalition has convened in the City of Atlanta for Poor People's Day at the state capitol for
9 30 consecutive years on behalf of low-income Georgia families; and

10 WHEREAS, this event has been instrumental in helping change welfare policy in the State
11 of Georgia, including the passage of legislation that implemented the state-operated PEACH
12 Program in 1986 and ended workfare; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger worked tirelessly with the Georgia
14 General Assembly in 2001 to pass this state's first minimum wage increase in over 30 years,
15 from \$3.25 an hour to \$5.15 an hour; and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger's executive director served as co-chair
17 of the Living Wage Coalition which encouraged the Mayor and Council Members to
18 establish a Living Wage Standard for all City of Atlanta employees of \$10.50 per hour, plus
19 healthcare benefits and Pay Equity Standards, in 2003; and

20 WHEREAS, it also won a cost of living increase for all City of Atlanta employees in 2005;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, it has assisted tens of thousands of underserved Atlanta families with access to
23 Food Stamps, WIC, and Welfare programs; and

24 WHEREAS, it has collaborated with Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda and Georgia
25 Vote Connection Center to register over 100,000 new voters in 2008, tens of thousands of
26 whom reside in the City of Atlanta; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger cultivates a 2 1/2 acre organic garden
28 in Southeast Atlanta, serving 2,000 families annually through four Umoja Outdoor Farmers
29 Markets in metro Atlanta and ensuring under-served Atlanta communities have access to
30 fresh, affordable produce; and

31 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger operates a year-round, full-time hunger
32 hotline in the City of Atlanta that assists 5,000 people a year with emergency assistance,
33 food, utilities, and transportation; and

34 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger has served more than 350,000
35 low-income Georgians in the organization's 35 year history, most of whom reside inside the
36 City of Atlanta; and

37 WHEREAS, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger and the Up & Out of Poverty NOW!
38 Coalition's annual Poor People's Day at the state capitol activities has brought over 90,000
39 low-income Georgians to the Georgia State Capitol to advocate on their own behalf.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
41 commend the care, fortitude, and selfless dedication exhibited by Georgia Citizens' Coalition
42 on Hunger and the Up & Out of Poverty Now! Coalition for services over the past three
43 decades and extend to them their utmost appreciation for having so purely and truly defined
44 for others the meaning of community advocacy in the City of Atlanta.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Senate is authorized and directed to
46 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger
47 and the Up & Out of Poverty Now! Coalition.