

House Resolution 699

By: Representative Ashe of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mrs. Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert on the occasion of her retirement as
2 chairperson of the Public Policy Advocacy Committee of the Board of Directors of the
3 Central Outreach and Advocacy Center; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert has long been recognized by the citizens of
5 this state for the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal
6 commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, a graduate of Hollins College, with a Bachelor of Arts in biology, Mrs. Harbert
8 also attended New York University, earned a Master of Arts in journalism, and is an indigent
9 defense investigator and paralegal for the Southern Center for Human Rights; and

10 WHEREAS, she has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Central Outreach and
11 Advocacy Center (Central OAC) since 2005 and has served as chairperson of the Public
12 Policy Advocacy Committee of the Central OAC since 2006; and

13 WHEREAS, under Mrs. Harbert's leadership, the advocacy program of Central OAC has
14 experienced significant growth and continued success, including the hiring of the first
15 Director of Public Policy Advocacy; establishing partnerships with other organizations to
16 advocate on behalf of the poor and homeless; developing the process for forming the public
17 policy agenda; ensuring that those jailed or serving prison sentences in Georgia leave prison
18 with valid identification cards, thereby eliminating such barrier to securing employment,
19 benefits, and housing; working to defeat the Jail and Prison Reimbursement Act; helping to
20 defeat legislation which would prevent employers from hiring ex-felons to work in the homes
21 of customers; and educating voters on the stand taken by candidates for Atlanta Mayor and
22 City on the issue of homelessness; and

23 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Harbert is a member and deacon of
24 Central Presbyterian Church; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harbert is united in love and marriage to her supportive husband, Harold,
26 and she has been blessed with a remarkable daughter, Ellie; and

27 WHEREAS, she is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
28 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

29 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harbert has served with honor and distinction as chairperson of the Central
30 Outreach and Advocacy Center, and her vision and unyielding commitment will be sorely
31 missed upon the occasion of her retirement; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
33 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend Mrs. Mary Sidney Kelly Harbert for her many
36 outstanding achievements and her commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia,
37 congratulate her upon the grand occasion of her retirement, and extend to her their most
38 sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Mary Sidney Kelly
41 Harbert.