

House Resolution 1456

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, O`Neal of the 146th, Gardner of the 57th, Clark of the 104th, Pruett of the 144th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Residential Child Care Association (GRCCA) was established in
4 1962 as an organization of child welfare provider executives interested in sharing their
5 knowledge, commitment, and work with each other toward strengthening child welfare in
6 Georgia and supporting at-risk children and their families; and

7 WHEREAS, GRCCA understood the importance of working with children and families in
8 more than residential settings, so it expanded its focus to include all services to children and
9 reflected it in its name, the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children
10 (GAHSC); and

11 WHEREAS, GAHSC grew in numbers and influence totaling more than 140 programs
12 throughout the State of Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, GAHSC is seen by public policy leaders, the Governor's office, legislators, and
14 other leaders as the premier private child welfare provider group for representing at-risk
15 children and service providers in Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, GAHSC has embarked on a series of strategic initiatives that have strengthened
17 child well-being and safety, as well as permanency for Georgia's at-risk children; and

18 WHEREAS, these strategic initiatives helped create public policies, such as the
19 Multi-Agency Alliance for Children, Inc., the Community of Care concept, Georgia's First
20 Placement/Best Placement, the Level of Care Placement Systems, and Systems of Care; and

21 WHEREAS, GAHSC's work with private child welfare agencies has furthered community
22 engagement of Georgia's foster care system from 5 percent in 1991 to more than 50 percent

23 in 2011, and family support and behavioral health services have shifted from exclusive
24 government providers to mostly community based providers; and

25 WHEREAS, in supporting family-centered practice, it has furthered the work of all child
26 serving agencies in preventing children from coming into care and keeping them safer in
27 their families of origin, while supporting these families in the care of their children; and

28 WHEREAS, GAHSC has provided a voice for at-risk children where there was none and
29 because of its focus, work, and mission countless numbers of at-risk children are safer today
30 and served with better systems because of its advocacy for responsible public policy; and

31 WHEREAS, GAHSC has served to support at-risk children and their families by
32 strengthening the children and family serving agencies in Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for
35 Children and its member agencies for their 50 years of leadership, advocacy, and services to
36 at-risk children and their families in the State of Georgia.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.