

Senate Resolution 1185

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Harbison of the 15th, Henson of the 41st, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 22, 2012, as CHRIS Kids Day at the Georgia state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1981, CHRIS Kids was founded by the Junior League of Atlanta to fill a gap
4 in services for severely emotionally troubled children in foster care who did not need
5 institutionalization but needed more than foster homes could provide; and

6 WHEREAS, today, CHRIS Kids offers a community based family of services that is
7 innovative and holistic with the goal of helping children, youth, and families to unlock their
8 potential to become self-sufficient, contributing citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids utilizes clinical best practices, is accredited by a national
10 accreditation body, and has transformed 17,000 lives over 30 years; and

11 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids Safe Homes and Environments provides children with safe
12 environments free of abuse and neglect, and, through adding the ingredients of love and
13 support, children are able to flourish in their own home, an adoptive home, or a CHRIS Kids
14 home while they learn life skills that prepare them for a bright future; and

15 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids Behavioral Health Services promotes healing for children, youth,
16 and families by offering counseling to help them overcome life's hurdles, recover from
17 trauma, restore self-confidence, and improve communication within the family unit; and

18 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids Strong Communities reduces barriers to getting help by taking
19 services directly to children, youth, and families in the communities where they live and
20 helps them to become productive citizens, promotes community engagement, and builds
21 confidence; and

22 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids provides a wide range of education and training opportunities,
23 including child sexual abuse prevention, antibullying, parenting skills, teaching basic life
24 skills, and specialized clinical training for therapists, and CHRIS Kids trains other
25 organizations and child care workers to expand the scope of healing in the community; and

26 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids is a convener and collaborator seeking to avoid duplication of
27 services and is a founding member of several collaboratives, including the Multi Agency
28 Alliance for Children (MAAC); and

29 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids works closely with the Departments of Human Services, Juvenile
30 Justice, Community Health, Education, and Behavioral Health and Developmental
31 Disabilities to provide services to Georgia's children, adolescents, and families that help them
32 become self-sufficient, contributing citizens; and

33 WHEREAS, last year, CHRIS Kids helped homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care
34 complete educational and employment goals such that 87 percent of young adults in the
35 Summit Trail apartment complex were working or in school and over 89 percent of these
36 young people maintained employment for 90 days or longer; and

37 WHEREAS, last year, 92 percent of the families with whom CHRIS Kids worked were
38 strengthened and remained intact, and 100 percent reported being satisfied with the quality,
39 support, and clinical services that they received; and

40 WHEREAS, during 2011, CHRIS Kids won the Community Foundation of Atlanta
41 Managing for Excellence Award in recognition of its solid management practices; was
42 recognized by the Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness with the 2011 Bridge Builder
43 Award for innovative and superior services to homeless youth, including young parents; and
44 won the 2011 Agency of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Homes and
45 Services to Children for excellence in innovation and service delivery for children in foster
46 care and those aging out of foster care; and

47 WHEREAS, CHRIS Kids leads innovation and positive outcomes in the lives of Georgia's
48 children and families and, in acknowledgement of CHRIS Kids' outstanding
49 accomplishments, it is abundantly fitting and proper that CHRIS Kids receives recognition.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
51 honor and commend CHRIS Kids for over 30 years of innovative, efficient, effective,

52 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the children, adolescents, and families of this state
53 and proclaim March 22, 2012, as CHRIS Kids Day at the state capitol.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
55 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to CHRIS Kids.