

House Resolution 113

By: Representatives Lindsey of the 54th, Allison of the 8th, and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Georgia Commission on Family Violence; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds and declares that violence in Georgia homes
3 among family members accounts for many serious injuries, deaths, and extensive physical
4 and emotional damage to children and adults. Family violence knows no economic or social
5 barriers; the costs of family violence include misery and trauma for individuals and families
6 and increased government spending for police services, criminal prosecutions, incarcerations,
7 court personnel, foster care, public assistance, and juvenile corrections (Official Code of
8 Georgia Annotated, Section 19-13-30(a)); and

9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly charged the Georgia Commission on Family Violence
10 with developing a comprehensive plan for ending family violence in the State of Georgia
11 (O.C.G.A. Section 19-13-31); and

12 WHEREAS, over the last 18 months, the commission convened a Strategic Planning
13 Committee to produce a comprehensive plan for the State of Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, commission members, staff, and representatives from over 20 agencies,
15 including members of all three branches of government, devoted many hours to this process,
16 dedicated themselves to drafting the plan, and performed these tasks in addition to the many
17 responsibilities that fall on the shoulders of each of them at work, at home, and in the
18 community; and

19 WHEREAS, the following agencies made significant contributions, including personnel,
20 expertise, and resources, to the planning process:

21 Georgia Commission on Family Violence, represented by Judge Stephen Kelley, Judge
22 Peggy Walker, Mr. Greg Loughlin, Ms. Jennifer Thomas, and Ms. Sheri Halpern;

23 Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council represented by Mr. Robert Thornton and
24 Ms. Stefanie Lopez-Howard;
25 Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence represented by Ms. Nicole Lesser and Dr.
26 Angie Boy;
27 Governor's Office on Children and Families represented by Ms. Katie Jo Ballard and Ms.
28 Dahlia Bell;
29 Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault represented by Ms. Jennifer Bivens;
30 YWCA of Northwest Georgia represented by Ms. Holly Comer and Ms. Elisa Covarrubias;
31 Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire represented by Ms. Mary McAlister;
32 Men Stopping Violence represented by Ms. Eesha Pandit and Ms. Shelley Serdahely;
33 Georgia Prosecuting Attorneys Council represented by Mr. Chuck Spahos;
34 Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts represented by Ms. Marla Moore and Mr.
35 Christopher Church;
36 Georgia Council of Superior Court Judges represented by Mr. Shannon Weathers;
37 Georgia Department of Public Health represented by Ms. Lisa Dawson and Mr. Jeffery
38 McMichael;
39 Performance Vistas, Inc., represented by Mr. Doug Bailey;
40 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities represented by
41 Mr. Travis Fretwell and Mr. Von WRIGHT;
42 Georgia Department of Human Services: DFCS and Aging Services represented by Ms.
43 Kim Washington and Ms. Barbara Pastirik;
44 Georgia Legal Services Program represented by Ms. Vicky Kimbrell;
45 Governor's Office of Planning and Budget represented by Mr. Richard Dunn;
46 House Majority Whip represented by Representative Edward Lindsey and Mr. Brian
47 Walker;
48 House Judiciary Committees represented by Ms. Brandi Bazemore;
49 Office of the Lieutenant Governor represented by Ms. Irene Munn;
50 Valdosta State and Georgia State Universities represented by Dr. Mary Eleanor
51 Wickersham and Dr. Julia Perilla;
52 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention represented by Dr. Dawn Fowler; and

53 WHEREAS, the completed plan offers an extensive array of long-range prevention, early
54 intervention, crisis, and legal services for agencies and policymakers to set priorities and
55 select strategies for ending family violence in Georgia.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
57 the members of this body commend the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and all

58 members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their extraordinary contributions towards
59 ending family violence in Georgia and distribute today a copy of the Strategic Plan to all
60 members of the House of Representatives.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
62 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Commission
63 on Family Violence.