

House Resolution 96

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), founded in 1988, is an
4 organization established to develop and support affiliate programs that provide volunteer
5 advocacy for abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency
6 proceedings; and

7 WHEREAS, since its founding, 47 affiliate CASA programs in Georgia have been
8 established and more than 22,000 CASA volunteers have advocated for more than 110,000
9 children throughout the State of Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, last year alone, 2,224 CASA volunteers advocated for 8,958 children, 7,712 of
11 whom were in this state's legal custody; and

12 WHEREAS, CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by ensuring
13 a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be
14 treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving
15 family; and

16 WHEREAS, a CASA advocate is a deeply committed, specially trained volunteer who works
17 within the child welfare system and is appointed by the juvenile court judge to provide
18 individualized attention and bring urgency to a child's needs; and

19 WHEREAS, as an external partner, CASA maximizes community resources and support for
20 children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased community
21 involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated,
22 compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis; and

23 WHEREAS, we are proud to recognize CASA volunteers in Georgia for giving selflessly of
24 their time and talents to advocate for the best interest of children in juvenile court
25 dependency proceedings and commend volunteer board members and the staff of Georgia
26 CASA and the affiliate CASA programs for their countless contributions made on behalf of
27 Georgia's children.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Day at the
30 state capitol.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates.